

Christian Denzler
ZWARTE TUIN (BLACK GARDEN)

The Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to start the new season with a solo exhibition by the Swiss artist **Christian Denzler** (1966), who lives in Brussels. Denzler studied architecture at the ETH in Zürich, but is self-taught as a draughtsman and painter. In the late eighties he became known with his multipartite paintings with simple compositions. In recent years Denzler has drawn parts of the human body, like fingertips, navels, breasts, a parting in hair and thighs, directly onto the wall. In an almost meditative way and with the utmost precision and attention to detail, he makes wall-drawings which fill up the whole space.

In his new installation 'Black Garden' in the Annet Gelink Gallery, Denzler employs modern techniques for the very first time. The size of the drawings and their fine structure make it impossible for Denzler the work the way he used to work on projects in the past, i.e. drawing directly onto the wall. This time modern scanning and copying techniques have been employed to blow up and multiply the hand-drawn patterns, transforming them into an all-encompassing, space-filling pattern.

The theme of a dead, yet ever-growing garden, is one which has fascinated Christian Denzler from a very young age. The idea has continued to haunt him from the very first time he read the work of the 19th century poet Stefan George, who used the theme in a poetic way, and also later when Denzler saw the motive used again in the Paul Klee painting 'Park bei L.' It was only last year, when Denzler was given a studio for the period 1999/2000 in the Swiss Institute in Rome, that he had the opportunity to develop this idea.

In this new installation the gallery space is transformed into a sea of leaves, forming strange, almost hallucinatory patterns. Denzler plays with human perception. The circles, curls and worm-shaped figures have an absorbing effect on the cornea. In entering the gallery one is as it were sucked into the space itself. In his attempt to get to grips with his surroundings the viewer is challenged to use all his senses. In fighting the optical confusion, one is tempted to continue on just by touch. The viewer has an experience which is both spatial, visual and sensual. The interaction between near and far, recognition and alienation, is of great importance. Seen from a variety of perspectives, the vegetative motif seems to be moving, as the black garden slowly comes to life.

Christian Denzler had his first solo exhibition in The Netherlands in 1998, in Huis aan de Werf in Utrecht, curated by Moritz Küng. On September 21, 2001 a solo exhibition will open in the Centro Culturale Svizzero in Milan.

The Bakery

The French artist **Delphine Bedel** (1964), who lives in The Netherlands, makes films, photographs, video installations and art in the public space. In her work she often researches and questions the meaning of language, codes and signs. Her new video work 'Ankie', a video loop, is situated in a forest. Like with Christian Denzler, this work, too, creates a perceptual confusion, evoking an almost physical experience. The chaotic manner of filming makes the viewer dizzy, almost nauseous even. Like in many of her earlier works Bedel plays with concepts like vertigo, voyeurism and claustrophobic inescapability. As the film goes on the tension rises and what first looked like playfulness gradually turns into a fear-inspiring chase.

Delphine Bedel graduated from the the Institut des Hautes Etudes et Arts Plastiques in Paris in 1993. From 1998 until 1999 she studied at the Rijksacademie in Amsterdam. From November 29, 2001 she will have a solo presentation entitled 'Experiment 8' in the Wiener Secession, curated by Barbara Clausen.

The exhibition will be on view from September 15 thru October 20, 2001. The opening reception will be held on Saturday September 15 from 5 pm until 7 pm. Opening hours of the Annet Gelink Gallery are Tuesday to Friday 11 am – 6 pm; Saturday 1 pm – 5 pm. For more information please contact Danila Cahen or Anika Ohlerich.