

PRESS RELEASE

10 January - 21 February 2009

RYAN GANDER

I let somebody get under my skin

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the third solo exhibition *I let somebody get under my skin* by Ryan Gander (Chester, England, 1976). After his research sabbatical in 2007 Ryan Gander is now again receiving a lot of attention. In 2008 he had worldwide solo exhibitions, such as the critically acclaimed touring shows *Heralded as the New Black* (South London Gallery, IKON Gallery in Birmingham, and this spring in Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam) and *Something Vague* (Bonner Kunstverein and Kunstverein Sankt Gallen), more recently he has exhibited *Somebody's playing me* at Taro Nasu Gallery in Tokyo and *Championed by rigour* at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery in New York.

I let somebody get under my skin is an ambiguous title which refers both to allowing someone to influence you, either at the very first moment – or sometimes afterwards. Ryan Gander made new works that are as multifaceted as his previous works. Besides film, video and photography, the show includes sculptures, wall texts and a wall paper on display. This diversity originates from his fascination in the world around him, from which he collects, investigates, stores and eventually processes (or not) things in works of art. This associative manner of working yields fascinating work which is both conceptual and intellectual, and very intimate and personal, in which the spectator is put to think about his viewing behavior.

With the film *Things that mean things and things that look like they mean things* for instance Ryan Gander puts the entering visitor on the wrong track; the work seems to be a documentary about making a video titled 'The Magic and the Meaning'. However, the video turns out to be a fictive moving portrait shot on 16mm film of art students making studies and drawings of works by Francis Bacon within Tate Britain, London. Ryan Gander often refers to others in his work: artists, architects, scientists, cartoon figures, historical figures and movements. In *I'm getting off here* in the center room he tells subtly about Le Corbusier's death in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (France) in 1965. Le Corbusier, a major source of inspiration for Ryan Gander, dies when swimming near his self-built villa in the Mediterranean after having once said: 'How nice it would be to die swimming towards the sun'. The video installation *Encrypt, Encrypt, Encrypt... revisited* in the back room refers amongst others to the Bauhaus manifest (1919). On the three monitors you can watch a yellow jumping ball reminding one of a karaoke set, only without text and sound. The movement of the ball refers to Ryan Gander reading the Bauhaus manifest. The logos on the TVs have been adjusted in the 'Bauhaus Demi' font. The half-full glass of whisky on the ground gives the impression that someone has just left the set.

The Bakery: Bedwyr Williams

Methodist to my Madness

Bedwyr Williams (St. Asaph, Wales, 1974) is living and working in Wales, after having studied amongst others at Ateliers in Arnhem. He attracted attention when he participated in the Biennale in Venice in 2005 and because of his nomination for the Beck's Futures price in 2006. In 2008 he had a solo exhibition at STORE Gallery in London.

Bedwyr Williams' work consists of performances and stand-up comedy, installations, sculptures, paintings and photos. In the autumn of 2008, in Hotel Mariakapel in Hoorn, he participated in the group exhibition *I Am Comedy/We Are Comedy* with the performance 'Methodist to my Madness'. The same performance, this time recorded in his studio, has been included on video in *The Bakery*, surrounded by small sculptural works. 'Methodist to my Madness' is about the process of a performance, from beginning to end: from the invitation of the curator to dressing at the office of the gallery afterwards.

About the importance of costumes Bedwyr Williams says: 'When I perform I always choose a costume that I would feel comfortable wearing. If I had to make an escape in the catastrophic event of a bomb blast or an earthquake. An outfit that I would be happy to be rescued in. Those souls who perform naked and covered in paint run the risk of being found by a fireman or a policeman or even an earthquake dog under the rubble naked and covered in paint.' He appears as a Methodist preacher, freely based on Christmas Evans, an eighteen-century one-eyed preacher from Wales. Raised in a religious family, the church services were the first 'performances' the artist saw. The theatrics of the frightening disciplinary sermons were Bedwyr Williams' inspiration for this installation.

Performance During the opening on Saturday 10 January, there will be a joint performance of Ryan Gander and Bedwyr Williams. Start: 5 p.m.

Fairs In February Annet Gelink Gallery will participate in Art Rotterdam and ARCO Madrid, with work of amongst others Yael Bartana, Ryan Gander, Carla Klein and David Maljkovic.

Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.. Please contact for more information Floor Wullems or Carolien Sijberden, +3120-3302066 or info@annetgelink.com.

