

JOHN BERGGRUEN GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Dimensions

March 14 – April 28, 2007

John Berggruen Gallery is pleased to present *New Dimensions*, an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by a selection of prominent and emerging artists. *New Dimensions* marks the premiere exhibition of these works as an ensemble and will occupy both floors of gallery space. This exhibition opens Thursday, March 14th and will run through Saturday, April 28, 2007.

Artists included in *New Dimensions* are: Darren Almond, Stephan Balkenhol, Los Carpinteros, Gregory Crewdson, Iran do Espirito Santo, Tom Friedman, Anton Henning, Anish Kapoor, Jenny Pockley, Jenny Scobel, Kiki Smith, Veron Urdarianu, and Rachel Whiteread.

Darren Almond (British, b. 1971) works in a variety of media, including sculpture, drawing, video, and, as seen in *New Dimensions*, photography. Since his first solo exhibition at White Cube in 1997, Almond's work has been the focus of solo exhibitions internationally as well as been an integral component of group exhibitions like 1997-2000's *Sensation* at the Royal Academy of Art in London and the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York.

The figurative works of **Stephan Balkenhol** (German, b. 1957) are largely informed by the minimalist tradition of German sculpture. As a student in Hamburg in the late 1970s / early 1980s, he studied under Ulrich Ruckreim, a first-generation Minimalist. In the monumental *Large Woman with Yellow Shirt*, and *Woman with Indigo Blue Dress*, Balkenhol's preference for working with wood is apparent. These two sculptures, like the majority of Balkenhol's rather large body of work, are rudely, yet purposefully, manufactured from single slabs of wood.

Los Carpinteros was not a self-imposed moniker assumed by the Cuban born trio of Marco Castillo, Dagoberto Rodriguez and Alexandra Arrechea. The name of the collective was given to them by their classmates at Havana's Superior Institute of Art in the early 1990's due to the group's tendency to work primarily with wood and because of the utilitarian aesthetic of their sculptures and drawings. Today, **Los Carpinteros** is predominantly known throughout the US for their 2005 mid-career retrospective *Los Carpinteros: Inventing the World* at the University of South Florida's Contemporary Art Museum and for *Ciudad Transportable (Transportable City)* at PS1 Contemporary Art Center and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The large and highly theatrical photographs of New York based artist **Gregory Crewdson** (American, b. 1962) have solidified his position as one of the rising stars of photography since the 1990s. Crewdson, whose resumé includes a teaching position in the photography department at Yale's graduate School of Art and various stints in the role of curator, has been the subject of numerous monographs and museum exhibitions of both national and international scope, including a 2005 retrospective at the Kunstverein Hannover.

The work of **Tom Friedman** (American, b. 1965) is as varied as his educational background. Born in St. Louis, Friedman studied graphic illustration there at Washington University before moving to Chicago to study sculpture at the University of Illinois. His first solo exhibitions occurred in Chicago and in New

York in 1991. Since, then Friedman has continued to broaden his oeuvre and has been the focus of solo exhibitions at institutions such as New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York and the Prada Foundation in Milan.

The work of **Anton Henning** (German, b. 1964) is often self-referential, self-consciously art-historical and almost always tongue-in-cheek. In any given canvas, Henning might schizophrenically switch between styles, borrowing snippets of imagery from artists like Picasso, Modigliani, Van Gogh and Matisse to produce pseudo-Cubist-Expressionist-Constructivist paintings. In his latest solo exhibition at the Zach Feuer Gallery in New York in 2006, Henning created a multimedia explosion of art that transformed the gallery into an over-the-top salon while simultaneously referencing and critiquing the salons of a bygone era. Included in this exhibition were not only the paintings and sculptures that have catapulted Henning into the realm of cult hero, but also video and multimedia installations including self-composed piano music. His works have garnered much critical attention and have been exhibited internationally in museums, galleries, and biennales.

Anish Kapoor (Indian, b. 1954) is a Turner Prize winning sculptor who lives and works in London. Kapoor is best known for his brightly colored, highly reflective, monochromatic curved forms. Since the late 1990s, Kapoor has frequently experimented in the production of massive, architecturally derived sculptures including the large steel *Marsyas* (2002) installed at the Tate Modern in London, 2004's bean-shaped *Cloud Gate* in Millennium Park, Chicago, and *Sky Mirror* (2006) at Rockefeller Center in New York.

Jenny Pockley (British) is one of the emerging artists included in *New Dimensions*. She studied at the Royal Academy between 1994 and 1997, and has since exhibited at a handful of institutions including Sarah Myerscough Gallery and Whitechapel in London as well as the John Berggruen Gallery in San Francisco. She has been the recipient of several awards including the Kent Institute's First Prize for Painting.

Iran do Espirito Santo (Brazil, b.1963) is best known for his minimal sculptures that take quotidian objects – light bulbs, shirt boxes, aluminum cans - as subject matter. By fabricating these out of the more historically conventional materials of sculpture, Espirito Santo transforms them from utilitarian objects into non-functional but highly accessible works of art. His work will be included in the upcoming 52nd Venice Biennale (marking his third exhibition at the Venice Biennale). Iran do Espirito Santo has exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide; his works are included in the collections of many prominent international museums including the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Jenny Scobel (American, b. 1955) currently lives and works in New York. Her portraits, made with oil and graphite on wood, often appropriate images of known personalities and celebrities (faces and torsos) that are then juxtaposed seamlessly or not with images of her own creation. Many of the subsequent hybridized subjects are identifiable in a number of her other paintings, often times with only a slight perspective change or renegotiating of the background or décor. Scobel has had several solo-exhibitions, including 1999's *Unsolved Mysteries* in Molloy College Rockville Centre, New York. In 2004, she participated in the exhibition *Sagt holde Frauen: 15 zeitgenössische Künstlerinnen und das Medium Zeichnung* at the Museum Fridericianum in Kassel.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany in 1954, **Kiki Smith** began her artistic career by participating in COLAB (Collaborative Projects), a New York-based cooperative that consisted of over forty artists in the mid-Seventies. Smith's early career included solo exhibitions at the Dallas Museum of Art (1989), the MAK Galerie (Vienna, 1991), the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Humlebaek, Denmark) and the Fawbush Gallery, New York. In 2005, the Walker Art Center organized a traveling retrospective that moved on to the San Francisco Museum Art. Other recent solo exhibitions have included: *Convergence* at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; *Directions – Kiki Smith: Night* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.; and *Invention/Intervention: Kiki Smith and the*

Museums at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh. Kiki Smith's work can be found in over thirty-five national and international public collections.

New Dimensions marks the inaugural exhibition of works by Romanian artist **Veron Urdarianu** (b. 1951) at the John Berggruen Gallery. Urdarianu began painting in the late 1960s before moving to the Netherlands in 1973 to concentrate largely on sculpture. In the 1990s he changed his focus once again to painting on canvas, although he currently creates objects using the two disparate mediums - a practice that greatly influences the artistic composition of both his sculpture and his paintings. Urdarianu is a relative newcomer to the United States, with most of his exhibitions occurring in Europe. Of particular importance was his inclusion in 2005 – 2007's *Imagination Becomes Reality* that originated at the Sammlung Goetz in Munich, Germany and traveled to various other European institutions.

Rachel Whiteread (British, 1963), a member of the Young British Artists, holds the honor of being the first woman to win the Turner Prize (1993). She is best known for her sculptures, which often take the form of casts and have as their subject matter ordinary domestic objects. Her works have been included in numerous exhibitions such as *Sensation*. Whiteread has been the focus of much critical attention for her *Nameless Library (Holocaust Monument)* in Vienna, and *Untitled Monument (Plinth)* in London among a multitude of other works.

For further information and photographs, please contact Ellen Mahoney at 415.781.4629 or ellen@berggruen.com

Gallery hours: Monday - Friday: 9:30-5:30, Saturday: 10:30-5:00