

Press release

**SARAH ORTMEYER. *NAVY ROYAL***

**FLORIAN HÜTTNER. *FLUSS-VERSCHLAG***

**Press Conference: Thursday, 25 February, 11 a.m.**

**Opening: Friday, 26 February, 7 p.m.**

**Runtime: 27 February to 9 May 2010**

With these parallel exhibitions of works by Sarah Ortmeyer and Florian Hüttner the GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst presents two artistic positions with fundamentally different approaches.

**Sarah Ortmeyer** wrests individual persons and situations from their historical contexts and reassembles them in unfamiliar and thought-provoking constellations. Established historical fact forms the basis for an idiosyncratic and subjective perspective which extends its fictions into the present day. The associations evoked by her films, installations, and objects enrich our encounter with the past and reveal the magic that slumbers within what we hold to be established fact. Ortmeyer uncovers the layers and connections that exist behind the neutral information with which we are so familiar, yet which so rarely impinges on our lives. Her works draw out the potentially subversive elements hidden within historical narratives.

The exhibition *NAVY ROYAL* at the GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst Bremen explores the 1918 mutiny of the German High Seas Fleet. While *NAVY ROYAL* subtly draws on both the gallery's location on the Teerhof Island on the the Weser River and the city's maritime history, the exhibition is not

directly site-specific. Instead, Ortmeyer's works manifest a more general interest in the historical event that marked the first stirrings of the November Revolution and the end of the monarchy in Germany. The works displayed in the exhibition explore various aspects of these events and trace the reach of monarchical structures or the spread of sailor men uniform elements in fashion into contemporary society. A fisherman's anchor placed on a crack found in the gallery floor, a sailor's uniform tailored in unusual red cloth, a pyramid of rifles which oscillates between war and play, a film played in reverse showing a sunken ship re-emerging from the depths, red round cord with sailors knots and brass stand which evokes memories between red carpet and ropes, examples from the actual CHANEL collection or visual research on the children dressed in sailor men uniforms around 1910 and the glamorous portrayal of monarch's in contemporary boulevard magazines – *NAVY ROYAL* sketches out a broad vision that explores questions of freedom, resistance, power, individuality and yearning.

Sarah Ortmeyer was born in Frankfurt/Main in 1980. She studied at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach and at the Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main under Wolfgang Tillmans and Simon Starling. She currently lives in Vienna.

**Florian Hüttner** (born 1964, lives in Hamburg) employs a diverse range of media, including drawing, photography, installation, performance, and sound and film recordings, to create new ways of experiencing urban space. *FLUSS-VERSCHLAG* (riverside shack) will see Hüttner create a site-specific installation at the GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst: an open-sided structure situated on the prominent riverside building façade which will temporarily extend the gallery space. This 5m x 9m x 2m extension cannot be entered, but its interior is visible through the gallery windows. Bearing all the hallmarks of a provisional building extension, the structure's most prominent characteristics are its contingency and flexibility. This temporary architecture is visible to gallery visitors, as well as pedestrians across the river, passing motorists and shipping on the river – as a temporary landmark which despite his provisorily impression and fragile construction leaves its mark on its surroundings in a unassertive, but persistent way.

Cameras set up within *FLUSS-VERSCHLAG* monitor the immediate environment and the situation inside of the work, which will be permanently changed by outer influences like weather or time. These images are projected into the exhibition space. In doing so *FLUSS VERSCHLAG* creates a simultaneous perception of interior and exterior space and a tension between a controlled (through the cameras) and an autonomous view (through the eyes of the visitors). The process-related situation of the whole project is accentuated by prints which will accumulate during the exhibition and document the situation within the shed. Further more about 100 drawings and water colours point to the idea of the

construction build on the cladding and document their source from a two-dimensional affected perception of images.

Working in the tradition of Robert Smithson, Florian Hüttner draws on such aspects as the use of materials taken from other functional settings, the confrontation with pre-existing architecture, and the temporary occupation and redefinition of urban space. In spite of a certain affinity with the works of such visual composers as Courbet and Manet, Hüttner's approach is resolutely two-dimensional in its exploration of landscape in drawings, photography and film. In that sense *FLUSS-VERSCHLAG* constitutes a graphic extension of space, rather than an architectural or sculptural element.

Sarah Ortmeier's exhibition is presented with the support of the Waldemar Koch Foundation. The GAK is funded through the Senator für Kultur der Freien Hansestadt Bremen.

**For more information and images please contact:**

Imke Itzen, [presse@gak-bremen.de](mailto:presse@gak-bremen.de), Tel. +49 (0)421 500897

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday - Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday open to 9 p.m., closed on Mondays.

The GAK gallery is closed on Good Friday (April 2). The GAK is open throughout the Easter holidays and on May 1st from 11 am through to 6 p.m.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Tram / Bus stop: Am Brill

Tram lines: 1, 2 and 3

Buses: 25, 26 and 27

PLEASE USE THE PARKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT PARKHAUS AM BRILL

ADMISSION

Euro 3 / 2 reduced / free to GAK members

Combi-tickets including admission to the Weserburg | Museum für moderne Kunst: Euro 9 / 6 reduced