

Wilhelm Sasnal

March 8 – April 14, 2007

March 21, 2007—Wilhelm Sasnal's third solo exhibition at Anton Kern Gallery consists of a 16 mm film projection, a set of posters (ink on paper), and a group of paintings. All works are held together by the theme of intoxication, which is introduced through the film's narrative, structure, and atmosphere.

Sasnal's film is, itself, based on an early 1960s Polish movie depicting—in fictionalized form—a historic event in which the protagonist finds gallons of industrial methyl alcohol, sells it as vodka and thereby causes widespread illness, blindness, and death. Sasnal, however, is not out to romanticize or vilify the effects of alcohol, or to describe the place of alcohol in the poetic mind. Rather, by creating a distanced, in fact twice removed relationship between the viewer and the events unfolding on screen (of a nation under the influence), his interest lies in the relationship between the appearance of the film images, the paintings and the relating (historical and current) social and political events. It is the metaphor of alcohol that Sasnal uses as a template to engage with history and memory in general, to start a conversation between past and present in a non-nostalgic and radical way. In motifs such as a faceless man tormented by a hang-over headache, or a disorienting perspectival view inside a cubic structure, or a look into the blinding sun from behind silhouetted grain, Sasnal formulates precise image ideas and transforms them—with a visual clarity reminiscent of poster art—into paintings that capture the uncertainty of life.



Sasnal's work has recently been presented in one-person shows at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Frankfurter Kunstverein in Frankfurt, the Douglas Hyde Gallery at Trinity College in Dublin (all 2006), and the MATRIX gallery at the Berkeley Art Museum (2005). His work has also been included in group exhibitions at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, where he won the *2006 Vincent Van Gogh Biennial Award for Contemporary Art*, the National Museum of Art in Osaka, the Museu Serralves in Porto, the Sculpture Center in New York (all 2006), the Saatchi Collection, London (2005), and the Biennale de Sao Paulo (2004).

The exhibition opens on Thursday, March 8 and will run through Saturday, April 14, 2007. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Joshua Smith, Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibitions: Jim Lambie (April 19 – May 19, 2007)

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