

ANTON KERN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lothar Hempel
Kats, Nerves, Shadows & Gin

February 12 – March 21, 2009

Back Room: Eberhard Havekost

January 28, 2008, New York—Lothar Hempel's current solo show at Anton Kern Gallery, comprised of four figurative sculptures, three large diamond-shaped photomontages, and one painting, radiates an air of mystic coolness, generosity and grace.

Like a futuristic stage impresario, and seemingly without effort, Hempel choreographs figures and objects, matches disparate materials, and arranges geometric shapes and colors into a display of self-conscious aplomb. Colors are brilliant, shapes clearly defined, tactile surfaces vary from velvety soft to polished and hard. Images of dance performers and classical sculpture alike share their space with such attributes as feathers, truck tires, office chairs, a parrot and a Plexi walking cane, even a selection of imitation cakes and cocktails in a deli cooler counter. An eight-foot reflective phallus watches over the protagonists' activities. Their overall behavior, firmly anchored in cultural codes, entails a set of discernible bodily movements, postures, facial expressions, as well as color and tonal modulations that take on strategic social value within a moral context. Our gaze is opened to a kind of *sprezzatura*, an "aristocratic cool", that in the past has related to frank amorality and love or illicit pleasures behind closed doors.

Lothar Hempel's work has been exhibited continuously since the early 1990s, most recently in solo exhibitions at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2008), and Le Magasin, Grenoble (2007). Recent group shows include the *7th Gwangju Biennale*, Korea, *Lustwarande* Skulpturenpark, Tilburg, The Netherlands, and the Barbican Art Gallery, London (all 2008). This year's projects will include *Art by the Sea*, Beaufort 03 in Ostend, *Jean-Luc Blanc: Opéra Rock*, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, *Heaven*, Athens Biennale, and the *Biennale Estuaire Nantes—Saint-Nazaires*.

For the back room gallery, Eberhard Havekost selected five paintings from a body of work recently exhibited at FRAC Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Reality, in Havekost's paintings, is always subjective, subject to fluctuation and riddled by the question of viewpoint. This show is a small yet concise statement of the artist's core issues and current painterly concerns.

Both exhibitions will open on Thursday, January 12 and will run through Saturday, March 21, 2009. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibition: Marepe (March 26 – May 2, 2009)

###

