

Bendix Harms

*Lebenslieben*

September 5 – October 4, 2008

August 1, 2008, New York—For his second solo show at Anton Kern Gallery, German artist Bendix Harms has put together a body of paintings and drawings called *Lebenslieben* or *Loves of Life*. The exhibition opens September 5 and continues through October 4. A 32-page, fully illustrated catalog will be available.



Harms' paintings confront the viewer with their nakedness. Stripped down to the bare essentials of painting, each work displays one image-idea, a precise title, a reduced palette of one color and black on white ground, loose and swift brushstrokes. They are typically done in one session, without corrections, but with a whole lot of determination. Each painting unveils the emotional bare skin, the life-story of the artist, while elevating it to a universal level where the viewer's subjective response to this psychological nakedness can stimulate feelings of liberation, and even shame. Love, grief, yearning, and a pointed zest for life define the artist's world, a quest for the naked truth and paradisiacal bliss.

Of course, the title *Lebenslieben*, the artist's *Loves of Life*, underlines this desire for life, for the new, for the future. Like tropical birds, the paintings strut like the cocky male of the species, brightly colored — red, purple, green, blue. Their beauty ensures ongoing life, attracting a mate for procreation, and waiting for the female to help protect the nest of eggs and offspring.

Harms studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste (HfBK), Hamburg. His work has been exhibited at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (2007), the Prague Biennial (2005), the Tirana Biennale (2001), and in gallery shows in Munich, Copenhagen, Madrid, Hamburg, and Cologne. He lives and works in Hamburg, Germany.

The exhibition will open on Friday, September 5 and will run through Saturday, October 4, 2008. 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](mailto:info@antonkerngallery.com).

**Upcoming exhibition: Matthew Monahan (October 10 – November 15, 2008)**

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