

PRESS RELEASE

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Marcel Odenbach

Seated Videos 1977 – 1997

January 22 – February 26, 2005

Anton Kern Gallery is pleased to present *Seated Videos 1977-1997* a survey exhibition of works by German artist Marcel Odenbach. This is the artist's seventh solo show in New York and the fourth at this gallery.



Marcel Odenbach is a pre-eminent video artist who has, since the 1970s, influenced the development of video as an art medium. His experiments with narrative and representation, production techniques (repetition, fade, dissolve, splicing from historical film footage), and presentation (from single monitor to multi-channel projection) have established the ground for contemporary video practice.

The current exhibition brings together nine video installations and one projection from a twenty-year period including one of the artist's first pieces, *Der Konsum meiner eigenen Kritik (The Consumption of My Own Critique)*, 1977/78, which immediately sets the tone between political philosophy and ironic self-reflection. With the exception of *Auf Schritt und Tritt (With Every Step)*, 1997, and *Hals über Kopf (Head Over Heels)*, 1993, none of the works have been shown in the U.S.

The dialectical relationship between original and reused footage, contrasting soundtracks, and the physicality of the TV monitors in dialogue with the ephemeral quality of the image generates a dynamic that can at times be subtly disorienting. However, the tightly woven network of information sets in motion an analytic deconstruction of the visual, linguistic and formal categories of image making. In addition, Odenbach's employment of literary titles, which often refer to puns or traditional German sayings, expose inherent contradictions in our ideologically streamlined perception of reality. While thematically situated within the fields of the political and the social, Odenbach's work operates as a decisive uncovering of repressed memories.

Marcel Odenbach has been exhibiting frequently since 1978. His work was included in numerous group exhibitions such as *Documenta 8* (1987), *open-ends: Counter-Monuments and Memory* at MoMA (2000) and the *Istanbul Biennale* (2003), and will be featured in the *Sharjah International Biennial*, United Arab Emirates (2005). He has recently been featured in solo exhibitions at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (1998), IVAM, Centre Julio Gonzalez in Valencia (1999), the Reina Sofia in Madrid (1999), the Museum of Modern Art in Frankfurt (2002), the Frankfurter Kunstverein (2002), and at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Zealand (2004). His work is part of the collections of several U.S. institutions, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York, as well as the French Centre Pompidou, Paris.

The opening will take place on Saturday, January 22, from 6-8pm, and the exhibition will run through February 26. 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. The next show will present David Shrigley's most recent works from March 3 through April 2.