

PRESS RELEASE

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John Bock Bendix Harms

October 28 to December 4th, 2004

Opening Thursday, October 28th from 6 to 8 pm.



Anton Kern Gallery is proud to present John Bock's fourth exhibition at the gallery. The show is part of a series of curatorial projects that build upon the idea of collaboration. For his current solo exhibition at the ICA in London, he invited artists with similar interests in 'action' (Vito Acconci, Joseph Beuys, Paul McCarthy, Andreas Slominski, Robert Smith, Paul Thek, Rikrit Tiravanija, among others) to take part in the exhibition. Following this format John Bock has invited German artist Bendix Harms to be part of this exhibition.

John Bock is well known for his lectures, which often involve fantastic stage-like environments and self-sewn costumes. For this show Bock will build human size metal cubicles in which visitors can interact with his action/sculptures. The new work continues his exploration of quotidian objects and the possibilities of how to relate to them. In a dreamlike but conscious manner, John Bock creates situations that guide viewers into a labyrinth of proposals that yield no conclusions.

Dogs, mushrooms, cars and a girlfriend populate the thickly painted canvases of Bendix Harms. The artist uses his life story as an entry point to the work; for Harms, a position of critical distance is a useless trap. His knowledge of art history merges with personal history in paintings that recall turn-of-the-century German portraiture.

"I want to talk about subject matter in which everybody can react, not in a democratic sense but like a synapse. Hurrah or repulsion - like staggering into a room where 20 faces stare at you and after 20 seconds it's clear with whom you would get along and with whom you definitely would not" - Bendix Harms

John Bock's solo exhibition is currently on view at the ICA London and his work is being featured at the Carnegie International in Pittsburgh. His work was also presented at Documenta 11, 48th Venice Biennale; The Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2003). *Projects 71* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, NY and *Body Display - Performative Installation #4* at the Secession in Vienna. Bendix Harms has participated in exhibitions at Galerie Philomene Magers in Cologne and Galeria Heinrich Ehrhardt, Madrid.

Opening Thursday, October 28th from 6 to 8pm. The show will run through December 4th. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am-6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Fernanda Arruda or Michael Clifton at 212.367.9663, fax 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

December 9th, 2004 to January 15th, 2005 – Eberhard Havekost