

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Manfred Pernice**

### ***Commerzbank***

February 21<sup>st</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Anton Kern Gallery is proud to present *Commerzbank*, a new exhibition of artwork by German artist Manfred Pernice. Opening Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, his third solo show in New York features a new series of bench-like sculptures.

*Commerzbank* is a collection of objects the artist refers to as *Merzbanks* for their lineage to Kurt Schwitters' *Merz* movement. The term *Merz* originates from an advertisement used to promote Commerz-und Handelsbank in 1919. In German, 'bank' and 'bench' are interchangeable; through *Merzbanks*, Pernice reconnects *Merz* with its origin. Exhibited as art objects, they exist as hybrid offerings, oscillating between prop and sign, realism and utopia, politics and art. Form and intention allow them to be read as instruments for social critique.

Manfred Pernice constructs sculpture from cardboard, particleboard, concrete and steel; assembly is a device to comment on existing structures, whether they result from buildings, images or furniture. Fragmentary and peripheral by nature, these multifaceted units reconfigure mass, volume and space to engage the viewer in a dialogue that enacts critical allegiance with a site at a specific moment in time.

In addition to this show, Manfred Pernice will exhibit "Small Works, 1994 – 2004", at the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York, February 24<sup>th</sup> to April 3, 2004.

Pernice has exhibited in many important venues such as the 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Documenta 11 and Mass MOCA, MA. His sculpture (*Sieg*) *Victory*, 2001 is currently on view in *Sitings: Installation Art 1969 – 2002*, at LAMOCA's Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles. He has had solo exhibitions in numerous international museums such as the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, Sprengel Museum in Hannover, Witte de With in Rotterdam and Kunsthalle Zurich in Zurich, among others.

Opening Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 from 6-8pm. The show will run through March 20<sup>th</sup>. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am-6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Fernanda Arruda or Michael Clifton at tel 212.367.9663, fax 212.367.8135 or email: [info@antonkerngallery.com](mailto:info@antonkerngallery.com).

April 1 – May 1, 2004 - Jim Lambie.