



Christian Holstad

Opening: 13 March 2009, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Duration: 14 March –18 April 2009
Location: ScheiblerMitte
Charlottenstraße 2
(in the alley)
10969 Berlin

An essential component in the work of New York artist Christian Holstad (*1972, Anaheim, California) is his ironic perspective onto the dissipating content in a contemporary consumer and information society. Frequent references to high, pop and subculture in his works are interwoven, transferred to diverse contexts, and left to multiply ad absurdum. His methods of expression know no borders among media. Along with installations, performances, drawings, and collages, the trained ceramicist and sculptor works in these areas of skill as well. His sculpture often incorporates traditional handicrafts such as knitting, sewing, or crocheting. These are juxtaposed with an apparent affinity for hard, fetishistic materials such as leather, rubber or metal chains and the corresponding associations with the subcultures of S/M and the gay scene. Holstad is interested in the myriad of connections inherent in the subject matter's haptic, emotional content and the transgression of this content's codification.

His well known collages create controversial hybrids of images from gay magazines and idyllic interiors or landscapes. The "Eraserhead drawings" are produced in similar way: Holstad transforms marked body parts—such as faces of political personalities from newspaper articles—by erasing these sections with a rubber eraser, thus changing the form of the edited area. This method often imbues these works with a strong political statement, using irony to address the notion of images/symbols without reference or meaning, ubiquitous in a society permeated by mass media.

The show at ScheiblerMitte is Christian Holstad's first in Berlin. His works are found in major public collections including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Miami), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago) and at the Osloer Astrup Fearnley Museeet for Moderne Kunst.

Image: Christian Holstad, Resident, 2003, pencil on newspaper,
19.5 x 14.5 cm / 7.7 x 5.7 in.
(from the series of Eraserhead drawings),
Courtesy Aurel Scheibler, Berlin, © Christian Holstad