

GalerieFrancescaPia

Press release

April 2010

FABRICE GYGI

May 8 – July 7, 2010

Vernissage, Friday May 7, 2010, 6 – 8 p.m.

The artist Fabrice Gygi, last years Venice Biennale Swiss representative, employs a minimalist visual language which investigates the relationship and tension between seemingly opposite forces. In a playful and subversive manner he places sign systems of societal and authoritarian mechanisms into a new context and thus creates a highly affective atmosphere.

In his exhibition at the Francesca Pia gallery he presents his new jewellery, graphics and installation. The graphic imagery contains a fluid motion, the round comic-like shapes seem to float across the paper. Some are punctured, which seems to mirror his fascination with tattoos; at a young age Gygi developed his tattoo art by making little sketches into little books and then transcribing them thereafter into his skin.

The jewellery on exhibition is stripped of its function as a purely decorative ornament and thereby attains an autonomous character as an artwork. The highly polished surface of the silver pieces with their sinuous curves implicate the senses of the observer and seem to play with their recognisability as jewellery as he slightly reshapes them to suggest other objects.

His installation *Colonne* also engages in a transformatory act, whereby the columns are not made of stone as expected but of a soft fabric which negates its architectural function and reveals a certain fragility. The concept of columns as symbols of democratic strength and stability seems to be subverted here and brought into question. Gygi's rebellious spirit manifests itself in all of these artworks, he transcribes what he observes and analyses in the world in order to unhinge the commonly accepted beliefs of society and create an artistic universe that reveals the hidden.

Fabrice Gygi was born in Geneva in 1965. He lives and works in Geneva.

Exhibitions (selection)

2009	53. Biennale Venedig, Chiesa di San Stae Venedig, Italy
2007	Musée d'Art Contemporain de Marseille, Cubes, permanent Installation, Marseille, France
2006	Magasin 3, Stockholm Konsthall, Sweden
2005	Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland Orange County Museum, California, USA

Prizes

1996/97/98	Swiss Federal Prize of Fine Arts, Switzerland
1996	Kairo Biennial, Ägypt, 2° Prize
1995	Lissignol Grant, Genva