

galerie bertrand & gruner

## PRESS RELEASE

STORM THARP



16, rue du Simplon  
1207 Geneva - Switzerland  
info@bertrand-gruner.com

tel. +41 22 700 74 73  
fax +41 22 700 74 73  
www.bertrand-gruner.com

# Storm Tharp

## “Arrangement in flesh color and black”

September 4 - October 25, 2008

*Galerie bertrand & gruner is pleased to present the first solo show of Storm Tharp in Switzerland.*

*Born in 1971, Storm Tharp lives and works in Portland, Oregon.*

It is strange to pursue portraiture and figuration – now.

With the world as it is – and the boundaries of art making challenged constantly – it is curious to spend time making portraits – and conventional ones at that. I ask myself on a daily basis how this came to be. Why this? Do I even like this? And on a very good day I say, yes. Because that color on that paper is the best thing you've got. And because, that line reflects the best of your education. And on a very bad day (and there are so many) I say to myself that it is because I know nothing better to do. I have nothing better to offer. This is the best of me and my mind is limited.

Interesting that “the best that you've got” and “nothing better to offer” are in fact the same thing.

The narrative qualities of the portraits beg some explanation. Who is she, a person might ask? Why does he stand that way? Why are they crying? All I can say is these characters are created by process and failure and re-estimation. Each face becomes what it is. There is no sketch and rarely does the blueprint notion survive. The combination of effects is alchemical and either it works or it doesn't. In this way, these narratives are determined by how easy or difficult they were to draft and refine. My hope is they become big, rounded individuals with wildly varied histories, open to many interpretations.

Storm Tharp 1st July, 2008

galerie bertrand & gruner  
16, rue du Simplon  
1207 Geneva - Switzerland  
Tuesday - Friday: 15h - 19h  
Saturday: 14h - 18h  
(and by appointment)

Tel. : +41 22 700 74 73  
[www.bertrand-gruner.com](http://www.bertrand-gruner.com)  
[info@bertrand-gruner.com](mailto:info@bertrand-gruner.com)