

galerie bertrand & gruner

PRESS RELEASE

GANDALF GAVAN:
" INCORPORATED DEMENTIONS "



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GANDALF GAVAN: "Incorporated Dementions"

November 8 – December 21, 2007

Galerie bertrand & gruner is pleased to present the first solo show of Gandalf Gavan in Switzerland.

Born in 1975 in Berlin, Gandalf Gavan lives and works in New York. In 2007 he took part in the group show "International and National Projects" at P.S.1, the center for contemporary art of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

This protean artist's preferred forms of expression are sculptural installations (in either the urban environment or indoor spaces), video, photography and mixed media on paper. Moving from one medium to another with frightening ease, Gavan runs through a number of influences (between minimalist formalism and abstract expressionism) and sources of inspiration.

The same energy and exciting creative ferment infuse all his works. Furthermore, his pieces all seem to exist in an extraordinary world in which the works themselves change shape and engender new forms. The color lines seen in his works on paper, for instance, appear to naturally extend their existence in Gavan's festive sculptures, which are themselves photographed through a complex process of the artist's invention.

Considering his sculptures and installations as so many spatial extensions of his drawings, Gavan makes clear his interest in transformation and the effervescent. Art is of course a marvelous machine for transforming reality. At the other end of the chain, viewers, the range of their views and their ways of perceiving provoke in turn a constant reinvention of the work of art.

Having monumental dimensions and fitted out with cavities and projections, a mirror, almost become a sculpture in its own right, plays a central role in the artist's process of creation and reflection. Lording it over the studio, this mirror reproduces the pieces around it, which appear deformed and seemingly reworked in the glaze. Like a kind of hollow or negative artwork, the mirror alone contains all the papers, sculptures and installations in the studio at the time.

But Gavan goes further. Shifting the mirror around to obtain the desired reflection, he aims his camera at the reflective surface and clicks the shutter. Sparking a troubling dual game, he questions with humor and a touch of mischievousness the role of the viewer and the status of representation.

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16, rue du Simplon
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Tuesday - Friday: 15h - 19h
Saturday: 14h - 18h
(and by appointment)

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Current Frequencies, mixed media, 2007



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