

FLUCHTGEFAHR

grisaille

Miriam Cahn

Exhibition at Galerie Jocelyn Wolff, Paris

January 15 – March 7, 2009

Opening the 14th of January

For her first solo show at Galerie Jocelyn Wolff, Miriam Cahn worked in a unchronological manner, bringing together older works (*blind, von vorne, vom frausein*, 1979, notebook completed with eyes closed; *o.t.*, 1980 etc.) and recent works created in Paris for the exhibition (ensemble of paper works in the small room), asserting a kind of temporal unity of the work and its heterogeneousness where oil paintings, photographs, charcoal drawings and other techniques on paper are shown without hierarchy, side by side. The ensemble of works was composed in relationship to *das hirn meiner mutter* (the mind of my mother). This piece occupies a central and frontal position in the exhibition, the starting point for a dense and complex hanging, for which the exhibition space was divided into two independent rooms.

Regardless of format or technique, each work's completion was allotted approximately the same amount of time. More than its formal dimension which is treated in a heterogeneous fashion, the process is at the heart of the work, confirmed through the strength of the hanging when works are placed in opposition and its "curatorial incorrectness", as with *schönheit* placed next to *o.t 28.02.95* (a small finger painting on the wall to the right when entering the large room), and also with *ereignis 7.02.07*, where sketches of perspectives appear in confrontation with *o.t 16.10.04* with its flat, solid patches of color (back wall in the small room).

The ensemble of works presented at the gallery also witnesses the emergence of thematic aspects of the work. Some examples include the recurrence of small characters that could be interpreted as victims and/or children, as well as the two ensembles of drawings entitled *sarajevo*, completed during the conflict and the "ethnic purification" in the Balkans in 1992, and also the feminist discourse (in *blind, von vorne, vom frausein*, and in the recurring motif of the house).

Miriam Cahn was born in 1949; she lives and works in Basel and Bergen (Switzerland). Among her recent exhibitions: Museum für Gegenwartkunst (Basel), Kirchner Museum (Davos), La Caixa (Barcelona) and an upcoming exhibition at Galerie Meyer-Riegger (Karlsruhe/Berlin).