

Press release

Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger

KOW ISSUE 2

Exhibition at Galerie Jocelyn Wolff, Paris

Opening: March 18

Exhibition dates: March 19 – May 23, 2009

Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger: *Farewell letter to Swiss Workers*

"Working the historical fact, Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger's films tell of war, the hypocrisy of social relationships, and the disenchanting desire of utopia. Using the indirect mode of fiction, the two video directors could make Jacques Rancière's remark their own: 'To think about the real, it needs to be fictionalized'. For once the 'fact' is chosen, their work begins by writing a scenario based on a particularly documented study of the behaviors, attitudes, context and chain of events of the original event. Yet, they twist, rework, and replay it, creating a distance that paradoxically brings it closer to our means for judgment."

Françoise Ninghetto

The installation presented at the gallery by Moser & Schwinger, *Farewell letter to Swiss Workers* (2006), questions the notion of social utopias beginning from a letter that Lenin addressed to Swiss workers in 1917 before leaving Zurich to engage in the Russian Revolution. A part of the installation, the film, *Alles wird wieder gut*, is a political fiction that prompts the debate of the following questions through a micro-society in a former East German, 21st century village: in what kind of society do we wish to live? Of what kind of society are we capable? Of what common way of life do we dream? The film is in echo to *Tout va bien* filmed in 1972 by Godard and Gorin. With a touch of asserted absurdity, the film presents a group of young people who get together to try to find a way out of their social isolation and precarious situation, and this, in opposition to their parents, who are stuck in a position that leads them to restage a picket line in front of their factory, abandoned for fifteen years before.

Philippe Schwinger (born in 1961) and Frédéric Moser (born in 1966) recently exhibited their work at the Kunstwerke in Berlin. They represented Switzerland at the Sao Paulo Biennial in 2004. Among their most significant solo shows: MAMCO, Geneva, 2008, Kunsthaus Zurich, 2006, Kunstverein Stuttgart, 2002. They live and work in Berlin and Geneva. Currently they are preparing the shooting of *France détours*, a series of films on the tracks of *France tour détour deux enfants*, by J.L. Godard and A.-M. Mieville, a way of questioning contemporary France.

Additional information:

A few months prior to opening in Berlin, Gallery KOCH OBERHUBER WOLFF (KOW) is beginning a series of projects, which introduces its work methodology and a part of its future programming: KOW ISSUES.

KOW ISSUE 2 will be presented in Paris at Galerie Jocelyn Wolff within the framework of the collaboration with KOW Berlin and will focus on the installation, *Farewell letter to Swiss Workers* by Swiss artists, Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger.

KOCH OBERHUBER WOLFF is a contemporary art gallery and fruit of the collaboration between Alexander Koch, Nikolaus Oberhuber and Jocelyn Wolff.

Opening: summer of 2009, Brunnenstrasse 9, Berlin.

KOW ISSUES:

The series of KOW ISSUE projects strives to bind methodological questions specific to the visual arts to social questions in a flexible and open form: exhibitions, essays, conferences, etc. At the center of this project: considering artworks as contributions to debates; artworks reveal evolutions in the aesthetic discourse and in the artistic production; they raise questions of public interest that art allows to define and/or identify.

KOW ISSUE 1 Franz Erhard Walther, 27.02.-21.03.2009

KOW ISSUE 2 Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger, 18.03.-23.05.2009

KOW ISSUE 3 Michael E. Smith, 27./28./29.03.2009, beginning at 6 p.m.

KOW ISSUE 4 Tina Schulz, 03.04.-25.05.2009

KOW ISSUE 5 Chris Martin, 01.05.-16.05.2009

KOW ISSUE 6 Katharina Grosse, 19.05.-30.05.2009

KOW ISSUE 7 Arno Brandhuber, 26.06.2009

KOW ISSUE 8 Clemens von Wedemeyer in the Fall

With the exception of KOW ISSUE 2 that will take place in Paris, all projects will take place in a temporary space located at Brunnenstrasse 9 in Berlin.

For more information: www.kow-berlin.com