

PRESS RELEASE**Uwe Wittwer***The Unknown Photographer*

28 August – 23 October 2010

Opening reception: Friday, 27 August 2010 from 6 – 8 pm

We are delighted to show new oil paintings by the Swiss artist Uwe Wittwer (born 1954 in Zurich, lives and works in Zurich and Berlin). Wittwer has become prominent with many solo exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad. For his first exhibition at Lullin + Ferrari he has adopted programmatically the title of the painting *The Unknown Photographer* as the title of the show.

Wittwer draws the source material for his figurative paintings from the internet. The photographers of the family pictures, holiday memories and war sceneries are unknown to him; the anonymous photography is the basis of his artistic work. While searching the world wide web Wittwer encounters images, to which he is attracted. He files these discoveries in his image archives – sometimes years pass until he dedicates more time to one of the images and starts to discover it anew with compositional and painted means.

The exhibition at Lullin + Ferrari holds the character of a concentrated intimate play, which focus on the different ways of seeing. The lifesize painted, unknown photographer is the thematic leitmotiv of the exhibition: in a clearance he points his camera towards the public. He is completely absorbed in his occupation and requires from the public the same attention towards the paintings in the show he lends to the subject in front of his camera.

In the first room the large format painting *Rotation (Diptychon)* (2010) welcomes the visitors. In this image Wittwer positions a rollercoaster in a fun fair stupendously into the picture. The wagon of the rollercoaster itself can't be seen in the diptych, but its chattering resonates in the wooden construction and the noise of the fun fair surges up the construction. Beside the loud *Rotation* Wittwer places a contained *Wall Piece* (2010); on a black wall piece a large and old photography is painted, showing three attentive posing children.

In the middle room of the gallery hang the paintings *Riders* and *Flurry* (2010) in which Wittwer refer to previous groups of works. In the painting *Riders* a merry-go-round is depicted, turning in circles from the left to the right. Behind the boy in the left part of the painting a black drapery is raised, clearing the view onto a sunny landscape. On the right side of the image, menacing and darker hues predominate. The wooden horses suddenly allude to the horses in the battle paintings of the Florentine Renaissance painter Paolo Uccello, Wittwer had appropriated in previous, large works on paper. The painting *Flurry* inspires through the parallel order of the picture ground, through the outline of people shown in the snow and through its flush of colours. In the foreground of the painting sledges are visible, reminding of Wittwer's snow pieces from East Prussia.

Wittwer has the singular ability to remove in his paintings the authorship and therefore elevate his paintings to an universal level. By doing so his long standing occupation with the painting medium is always present, either in the accurate choice of colours, in the progress of lines or in the characteristics of brush marks.

The opening reception takes place Friday, 27 August 2010 from 6 to 8 pm. The artist will be present. For further information and images please contact the gallery, Lullin + Ferrari, Limmatstrasse 214, CH-8005 Zürich, t. +41 (0)43 205 2607, f. +41 (0)43 205 2608, info@lullinferrari.com, www.lullinferrari.com
Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, noon to 6 pm, Saturday 11 to 5 pm, and by appointment

Uwe Wittwer born 1954 in Zurich. Lives and works in Zurich and Berlin

Solo Exhibitions (selection since 1997):

- 2010 Lullin + Ferrari, Zurich
Art+Art Gallery, Moscow
- 2009 Haunch of Venison, London
Fred Jahn, München
Nolan Judin, Berlin
- 2008 Kunstzeughaus, Rapperswil-Jona
Cohan and Leslie Gallery, New York
- 2007 Haunch of Venison Gallery, Zürich
- 2005 Kunstmuseum Solothurn
Ludwigforum Aachen
Galerie Fabian und Claude Walter, Zürich
Spielhaus Morrison Galerie, Berlin
- 2004 Galerie Margit Haldemann Bern (with Regula Dettwiler)
Galerie Anton Meier, Genf
Musée de la Ville du Locle
- 2003 Galerie Ulrike Buschlinger Wiesbaden
- 2002 Galerie Natacha Knapp Genf
Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Zürich
- 2001 Galerie Margit Haldemann, Bern
Kunsthalle Winterthur
- 2000 University Art Gallery, Pittsburgh PA
Galerie Ulrike Buschlinger, Wiesbaden
Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Basel
Universität Witten
- 1999 Galerie Ulrike Buschlinger, Wiesbaden D
Houldsworth Fine Art, London
Galerie Patrick Schedler, Zürich
- 1998 Helmhaus Zürich
Galerie Margit Haldemann, Bern
- 1997 Galerie Ulrike Buschlinger, Wiesbaden
Galerie Silvia Steiner, Biel
Museum Schloss Morsbroich, Kunstverein Leverkusen

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Group Exhibitions (selection):

- 2010 *Exhibitionism - The Art of Display*, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London (until July 2011)
- 2009 *Mythologies*, Haunch of Venison, London
- 2008 *NO LEFTOVERS*, Kunsthalle Bern
Glückliche Tage, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen
- 2007 *Fade Away and Radiate*, Cohan and Leslie Gallery, New York
- 2006 *Judy Millar / Sophia Schama / Uwe Wittwer*, Spielhaus Morrison Gallery, Berlin
Reprocessing Reality, P.S.1 MoMA, New York
- 2005 *Flower Myth: from van Gogh to Jeff Koons*, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel
- 2002 *In Between*, Kunsthau Langenthal
Balsam, Helmhaus, Zürich
Inauguration, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Zürich
L'Imagine ritrovata, Museo cantonale d'Arte, Lugano
Neighbourhoods, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Basel
Big ist beautiful, Musée d'art et d'histoire de la Ville de Neuchâtel
Frozen Flowers, Galerie Margit Haldemann, Bern
- 2001 *Die Kunstsammlung der Mobiliar*, Kunstmuseum Bern
- 2000 *Schafft Land!*, Stadtmuseum Siegburg
Triennale für Druckgrafik, Grenchen
- 1999 Opening exhibition Houldsworth Gallery Cork Street, London
Landgang, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Basel
- 1998 *Die Schärfe der Unschärfe*, Kunstmuseum Solothurn
Swiss Contemporary Art, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
- 1997 *Sammlung Bosshard*, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen