

LULLIN+
FERRARI

Sebastian Hammwöhner

Affenstunde, the mimic

29 May – 11 July 2009



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PRESS RELEASE

Lullin + Ferrari are delighted to present new works by the German artist Sebastian Hammwöhner in his first exhibition in Zurich. Hammwöhner (b. 1974 in Frechen), studied from 1995 to 2001 at the Academy for Visual Arts in Karlsruhe, where he completed the master class of Prof. Helmut Dörner. He has won several awards, including a 2002 grant from the state Baden-Württemberg and a 2006 grant from the art foundation of Nordrhein-Westfalen. Hammwöhner has exhibited in numerous group shows, including the Berlin Biennale 2006, where he presented a collaborative work made with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein, – this piece was later exhibited at the Kunsthaus Glarus in 2007.

The enigmatic title and invitation card for this exhibition are appropriated from „Affenstunde“, the first, 1970 released record of the German Krautrock band, „Popol Vuh“, famous for their compositions using the legendary Moog III synthesizer, and a number of film soundtracks made for Werner Herzog. However, Popol Vuh is originally the name of a pivotal sacred book of post-classic Mayan culture, containing mythological narratives and a genealogy of the rulers of the Quiché kingdom of highland Guatemala.

Since 2006, Hammwöhner has created large pastel drawings on black paper depicting carpets. In earlier works from this series, the artist concentrated on motifs of the Arabian world and the Balkans. All his new works hanging in the middle room of the gallery focus on the cultures of the Maya and old Peru, drawing inspiration from rare textile museum pieces from South and Central America, precious works no longer on display for conservational reasons, but all housed in the Museum Rietberg in Zurich. Hammwöhner is intrigued by the aspect of this duplication of the works housed in the Museum Rietberg in Zurich, which lends to his exhibition the idea of a model – an imitation of an exhibition. On the one hand Hammwöhner is close to the ancient artworks by directly including certain motifs, on the other hand he alienates the source material by considerably changing the dimensions, the colour order, rhythm and composition. „Untitled (The Mimic)“ and „Untitled (Wormholy Times)“ were modelled from textiles made by the Paracas culture 1000 years before Christ.

The black surface suggests the „Black Square“ by Kazimir Malevich. It simultaneously amplifies the luminance of the pastel technique, giving the aura of a sacred icon, its fragility protected behind glass. Several batons wrapped with coloured wool oscillate with the hues of the drawn carpets. Leant against the wall they set spatial and colourful marks. The colours of the batons are reminiscent of the Maya and Inka culture, but through their titles Hammwöhner gives them an ironical twist. The strict order of geometrical repetition lends to the images of the textiles a modernity, which situates them in the realm of minimal art. Hammwöhner creates a wonderful space, filled with chains of association and connections on different levels of meaning.

In some of the carpets one can distinguish creatures with huge eyes, which can be interpreted as apes or cats – animals worshiped as sacred in the culture of the Mayas and old Peru. Through the depiction of apes and the use of the title for the show Hammwöhner refers to an art historical topos: The artist as ape, who imitates nature. But Hammwöhner goes one step further, and sees in the figure of the ape also a critic of the art world, in which unreflected aping is a common behaviour. The imitation of reality is according to Hammwöhner, inherent to the motifs of the carpets. In this context the artist points to the famous flag paintings by Jasper Johns, in which the question „Is it a flag or is it a painting“ is implicitly asked. The world is rendered as an illusion, and art as the mimicry of the illusion.

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Sebastian Hammwöhner
Installation view
Lullin + Ferrari, Zurich
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Sebastian Hammwöhner: Installation view *Affenstunde, the mimic*
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Installation view

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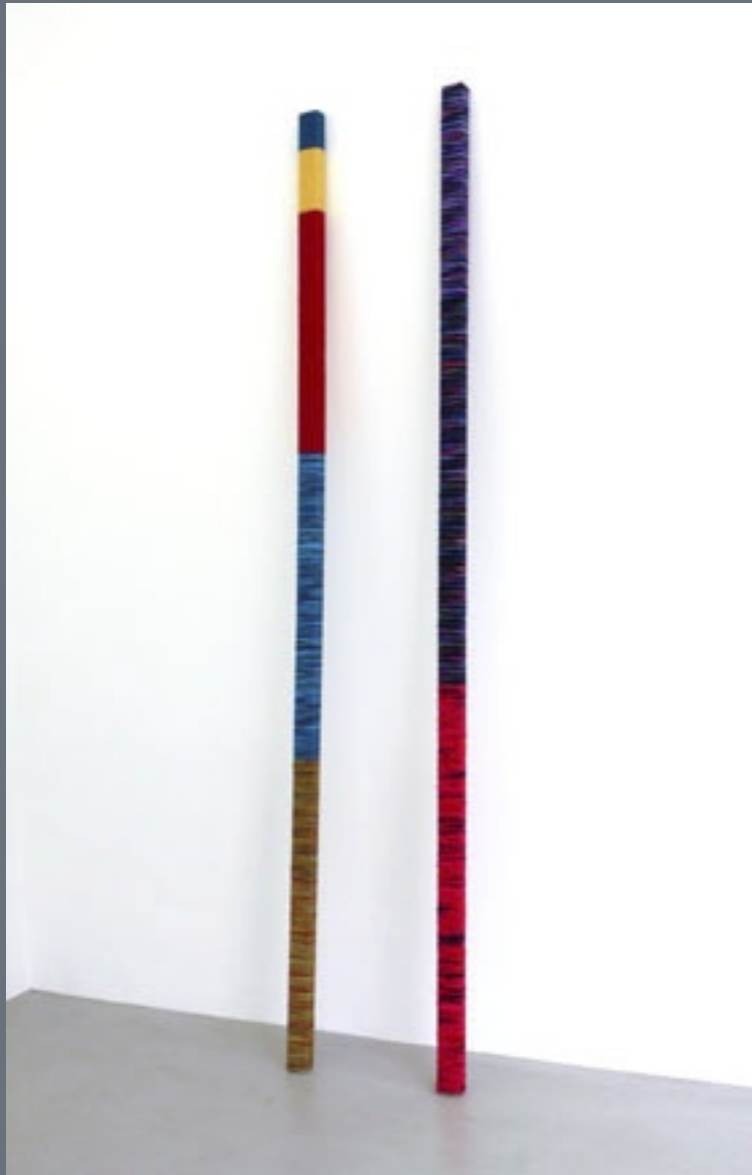
Sebastian Hammwöhner

A Scull Dungeory Rendezvous, 2009

Pastel on paper

170 x 104.5 cm (67 x 41-1/8 in.)

SH209.02



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Sunrise in Different Dimensions, 2009

Wood, wool, in 2 parts

each 250 x 6 x 4 cm (98-1/2 x 2-3/8 x 1-1/2 in.)

SH209.07-08



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Pinpoints of Spiral Prisms 1-3, 2009

Wood, wool

250 x 5 x 5 cm - 250 x 6 x 6 cm (98-1/2 x 2 x 2 in. - 98-1/2 x 2-3/8 x 2-3/8 in.)

SH209.14-13-16



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled (The Limits of Control), 2009

Pastel on paper

65 x 142 cm (25-1/2 x 56 in.)

SH209.04



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Deutsch Nepal, 2009

Wood, wool

240 x 5 x 5 cm (94-1/2 x 2 x 2 in)

SH209.11



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled (The Game), 2009

Pastel on paper

110 x 90 cm (43-1/4 x 35-1/2 in.)

SH209.06



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled (Wormholy Times), 2009

Pastel on paper

236 x 84.5 cm (91-3/4 x 33-1/4 in.)

SH209.01



Sebastian Hammwöhner

The Dreamer Dreams a Dream, 2009

Wood, wool

212 x 6 x 6 cm (83-1/2 x 2-3/8 x 2-3/8 in)

SH209.09



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled (The Mimic), 2009

Pastel on paper

80 x 140 cm (31-1/2 x 55-1/8 in.)

SH209.03



Sebastian Hammwöhner

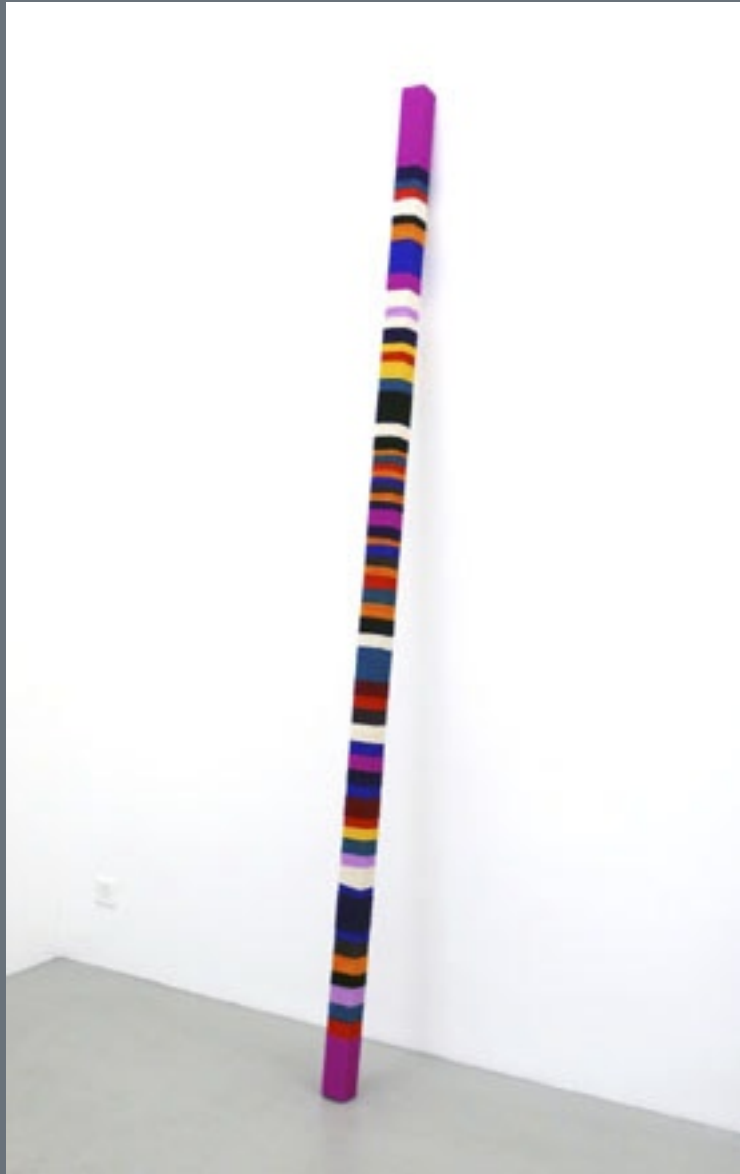
Untitled (The Frolic or a Chase)

2009

Pastel on paper

59.5 x 180 cm (23-1/2 x 70-7/8 in.)

SH209.05



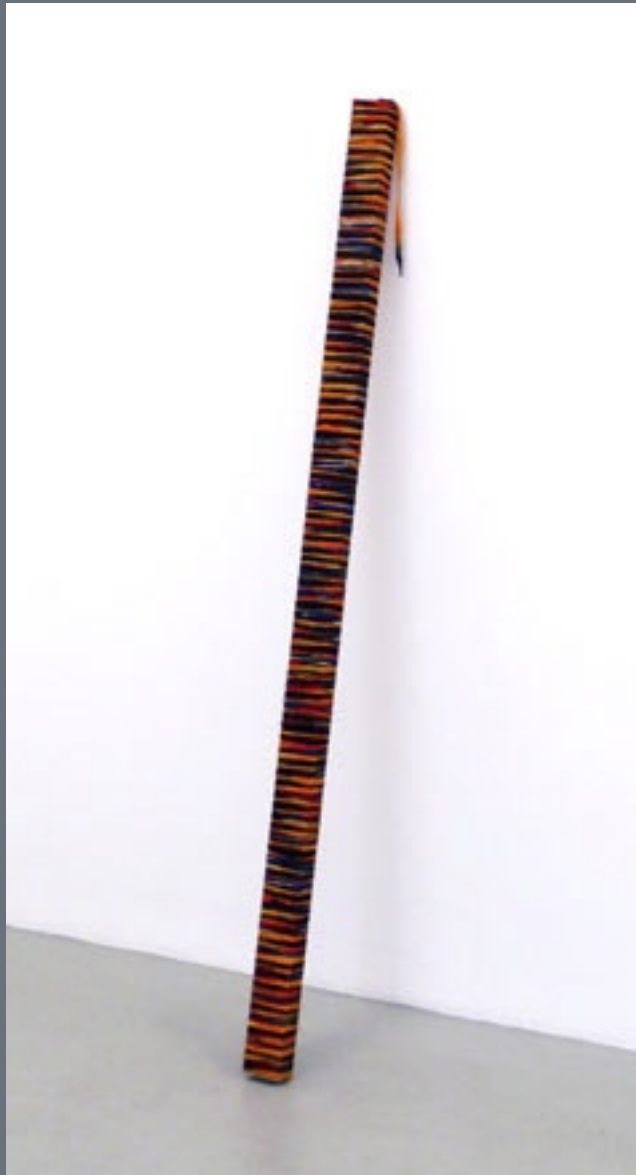
Sebastian Hammwöhner

ACE Accut, 2009

Wood, wool

250 x 6 x 6 cm (98-1/2 x 2-3/8 x 2-3/8 in)

SH209.15



Sebastian Hammwöhner

A Silent Song, 2009

Wood, wool

146 x 6 x 4 cm (57-1/2 x 2-3/8 x 1-1/2 in)

SH209.12



Sebastian Hammwöhner

A Scanner Darkly, 2008

Pastel on paper

179.5 x 129 cm (70-5/8 x 50-3/4 in.)

SH208.01



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled, 2009

Wood, wool

232 x 6 x 6 cm (91-3/8 x 2-3/8 x 2-3/8 in)

SH209.10



Sebastian Hammwöhner

The Filament (Red Giant) and a White Dwarf, 2007

Pastel on paper

208 x 143 cm (81-3/4 x 46-1/4 in.)

SH207.01



Sebastian Hammwöhner

Untitled, 2008

Tar board, wool, silicium

272 x 114 cm (107 x 44-3/4 in.)

SH208.02

SEBASTIAN HAMMWÖHNER

Born 1974 in Frechen, Germany, lives and works in Berlin.

- 1995-2001 State Academy of Visual Arts, Karlsruhe
- 2001 Masterclass with Prof. Helmut Dorner
- 2002 Scholarship for graduates of the state Baden-Württemberg
- 2003 Kunstfonds e.v. Bonn
- 2006 Grant from the foundation for the arts, NRW

Solo exhibitions

- 2009 *Affenstunde, the mimic*, Lullin + Ferrari, Zurich
- 2006 *lumen naturae*, Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe
- 2004 Supportico Lopez, Neapel
- 2003 „*Ländicken, Ländicken, du bist ein Sändicken....*“, Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe
- 1999 *Lick off the blacking*, Montparnasse, Berlin

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2009 *Magdalenenstrasse 1 // Hamburg*
Berlin 2000, PaceWildenstein, New York
- 2008 *James Ensor – Schrecken ohne Ende*, Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal, D (Cat.)
Sebastian Hammwöhner at Dogtooth & Tessellate, The Approach, London (through 01.02.2009)
NACKT- UND ABGASFARBEN, Galerie Kienzle & Gmeiner, Berlin
Ohne Titel, Montgomery, Berlin
Nevertheless, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
5000 Jahre Moderne Kunst, Villa Merkel, Galerie der Stadt Esslingen
Techne, Galerie Michael Haas und Galerie Haas & Fuchs, Berlin, curated by Gustav Kluge (Cat.)
Subconchicness, Ballhaus Ost Berlin
- 2007 *Paul Thek. Werkschau im Kontext zeitgenössischer Kunst*, ZKM, Karlsruhe; Sammlung Falckenberg, Hamburg (2008)
NULL BOCK, Schickeria, Berlin
L'homme nu: Allures anthropomorphes, Centre d'art Mira Phalaina / Maison Populaire, Montreuil, F
NACHT DER SÜSSEN BIENEN, Schickeria, Berlin
School of flowers, Kunsthaus Glarus, CH (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein)
- 2006 *Auch das Unnatürlichste ist die Natur*, Galerie Michael Neff, Frankfurt
Wir hätten das Land gern weit und rund und Sie..., showroom Berlin
4th Berlin Biennial, (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein) (Cat.)

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Selected group exhibitions (continue)

- 2005 Vilma Gold, London (with Dani Jakob)
William Blake and Sons, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, IRL
KIR ROYAL, Schickeria, Berlin
SELBSTBILDNIS, Schickeria, Berlin
Colours and Trips, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz, A (travelling exhibition) (Cat.)
- 2004 *rheinschau.art cologne projects*, RheinForum, Cologne
Varda Caivano, Sebastian Hammwöhner, Silke Otto-Knapp, Alex Pollard, Hayley Tompkins, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
Strategies of Desire, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, CH
Atomkrieg, Kunsthau Dresden, D (Cat.)
bowievanvalen, Amsterdam (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein)
Let the wind catch a rainbow on fire..., Filiale, Basel, CH (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein)
- 2003 *Actionbutton*, Neuerwerbungen der Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der BRD, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Russian Museum, St. Petersburg / RUS (2004)
Painting on the roof, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach, D (Cat.)
There's no land but the land (up there is just a sea of possibilities), Meyer Riegger Galerie, Karlsruhe
deutschemalereizweitausenddreie, Kunstverein Frankfurt/Main (Cat.)
Quetzalcoatl comes through, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein)
- 2002 *Event horizon*, Lothringer 13, Munich (with Dani Jakob and Gabriel Vormstein)
Pleasing thoughts, griedervonputtkamer, Berlin (curated by April Lamm)
- 2001 *Kunststudenten stellen aus*, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, D (Cat.)
Circles 05°: Berlin - Montana Sacra, ZKM, Karlsruhe, D
Der Wegelagerer, Meyer Riegger Galerie, Karlsruhe, D (with Dani Jakob, Uwe Henneken and Gabriel Vormstein)
Viva November, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, D (Cat.)
- 2000 *Moon white future*, Hobbypop Museum, Düsseldorf, D
Sympathie, Montparnasse, Berlin, D

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Publications

James Ensor – Schrecken ohne Ende, Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal 2008

Techne, Galerie Michael Haas and Galerie Haas & Fuchs, Berlin, curated by Gustav Kluge, text Catharina Gebbers, Berlin 2008

Martin Herbert, *Sebastian Hammwöhner*, in: *Vitamin D, New Perspectives in Drawing*, London: Phaidon Press, 2005, pp 132 – 136

Atomkrieg, Kunsthaus Dresden, Antje Majewski and Ingo Niermann (ed.), New York 2004

deutschemalereizweitausenddreie, Kunstverein Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt/Main 2003

Hübl, Michael, *Luther und der Sand im Getriebe blanken Wohlgefallens*, in: *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, 22 April 2003

Michael Hübl, *Tauch ein in das Meer*, in: *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, 18 February 2003

Painting on the Roof, Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach 2003

Sebastian Hammwöhner, Dani Jakob, Gabriel Vormstein, *Quetzalcoatl comes through*, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach, Frankfurt/Main: Revolververlag (artist's book)

Kempkes, Anke, *Rising Angels*, in: *Modern Painters*, Vol. 15, Nr 4, 2002

Viva November, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg 2001

Kunststudenten stellen aus, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der BRD, Bonn 2001

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Impressum

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