

PRESENTS**THE PROPER ANIMAL**

Black & White Gallery // Chelsea is proud to present *The Proper Animal* - the spring'08 season-long multidisciplinary program comprised of three successive solo exhibitions. All three participating artists utilize highly original and sometimes disturbing animal iconography which inevitably brings ethical considerations into play. The program title addresses complex issues of animal propriety in the context of human-animal power relations. Whether each artist operates in an intuitive, sub-ethical way focusing on form rather than meaning remains an open question.



ASJA JUNG
Mating Season
March 13 – April 12, 2008

Opening Reception:
Thursday, March 13th, 6-8pm

In her solo debut exhibition, Asja Jung teasingly conspires with the animal to render human authority ridiculous. Her paintings of humanoid apes in heavily ornate environments present a meeting of human and animal wherein it is hard to establish what is happening. The figures appear strangers to their surroundings. Their own bodies are reminiscent of Simon Dykes' character in Will Self's novel "Great Apes" - a primatomorphoised protagonist who struggles with the horrifying delusion that he is really a human trapped in a chimp's body. This discomfort can be interpreted as menacing or suggest a playful exchange between the human and animal. Jung places the particular importance of "the look" of an animal's eyes by skillfully interpreting the troubling or even accusatory power of the animal gaze.

Asja Jung is a native of Germany and currently lives & works in Astoria, Queens. Her education combines the study of art and plastination. Prior to earning a BFA degree in 2001 at the Academy of Art in Kiel, Germany, she studied varied methods of preserving and documenting the human and animal body at the University of Bochum in Bochum, Germany and at the Virchowsche Foundation in Berlin (1994-1997).

Image: Neighbor, acrylic on canvas, 96x40 inches

Black and White Gallery // Chelsea is located at 636 West 28th Street, Ground Floor, New York, NY 10001.
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6 pm.

For more information please contact the gallery at (212) 244 3007 /
Email: info@blackandwhiteartgallery.com

PRESENTS



TAMARA KOSTIANOVSKY
*Actus Reus**

April 17 – May 24, 2008

Opening Reception:
Thursday, April 17th, 6-8pm

BLACK & WHITE GALLERY // Chelsea is proud to present *Actus Reus* by Tamara Kostianovsky. In her solo debut exhibition, Tamara Kostianovsky extends the cold human gaze to killing. Methodically dissected beef carcasses made out of discarded human clothes are both ethically and aesthetically disturbing. The intense reality of the opened body cannot stop the humans from looking at the killed animal. The looker is not the killer, and some of the power in the relationship therefore lies with the looked-at thing, dead though it is.

Tamara Kostianovsky is a native of Israel. She was raised in Argentina and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She holds a BFA degree from Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1998) and an MFA degree from Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2003). Kostianovsky is a recipient of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Grant and was the finalist for Pew Fellowships in the Arts.

*The *actus reus* — sometimes called the *external elements* of a crime — is the Latin term for the "guilty act" which, when proved beyond a reasonable doubt in combination with the *mens rea* i.e., the "guilty mind", produces criminal liability in common law-based criminal law jurisdictions.

Image: *Abacus*, 2008

Articles of clothing belonging to the artist, ink, shellac, polyester batting and meat hooks.

90 x 46 x 21 inches/each

Photo credit: Sol Aramendi

ACTUS REUS is the second part of a three-part, spring'08 season-long multidisciplinary program *The Proper Animal*, comprised of three successive solo exhibitions. All three participating artists utilize highly original and sometimes disturbing animal iconography which inevitably brings ethical considerations into play. The program title addresses complex issues of animal propriety in the context of human-animal power relations. Whether each artist operates in an intuitive, sub-ethical way focusing on form rather than meaning remains an open question.

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JULIAN MONTAGUE

To Know The Spiders

June 5 – July 12, 2008

Opening Reception:
Thursday, June 5th, 6-8pm

BLACK & WHITE GALLERY // Chelsea is proud to present *To Know The Spiders* by Julian Montague.

Investigations into overlooked realms of daily life, continues to be at the heart of Montague's art practice. In his highly acclaimed *The Stray Shopping Cart Identification System* project exhibited at Black & White Gallery in the fall of 2006, his method was to build a system of classification around a mundane object. In *To Know the Spiders*, Montague mounts a visual exploration of seemingly mundane animals – the spiders that occupy the peripheries of human architectural space. His process begins with the collection and killing of a spider. He then studies its face under a microscope and from the resulting drawings creates a portrait of the spider in the form of a fabric banner. The banner is then placed and photographed in the exact spot of collection. The banner illuminates the presence of a silent witness and sometime symbiotic partner while also serving as a memorial to the spider that had to die for that understanding to be gained.

Since his graduation from Hampshire College in 1996 with a BA in Media Studies, Julian Montague's photographs and other works have been exhibited in solo and group shows at Hallwalls Contemporary ArtsCenter in Buffalo, NY, Real Art Ways in Hartford, CT, Spaces Gallery in Cleveland, OH, Art in General in NYC, Light Factory in Charlotte, NC and at the Collectors Gallery at Albright - Knox in Buffalo, NY. In 2005 Montague's work was included in the Albright Knox Art Gallery Beyond/In Western New York biennial at the Castellani Art Museum in Niagara Falls, NY. In 2006 the book version of the Stray Shopping Cart Identification System project, *The Stray Shopping Carts Of Eastern North America: A Guide to Field Identification* was published by Harry Abrams and is now widely available in bookstores and on most online book sellers. Julian Montague is the winner of the Diagram Prize for the Oddest Title of 2006. Montague's work has been recently acquired by The Margulies Collection in Miami, FL and Albright - Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY. His site-specific installation is currently on view at the Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City in *Waste Not, Want Not* exhibition. Julian Montague lives and works in Buffalo, NY.

Image: 96 / interior, 2008, Digital Pigment Ink Print, 35 x42.5 inches

To Know The Spiders is the final part of a three-part, spring'08 season-long multidisciplinary program *The Proper Animal*, comprised of three successive solo exhibitions. All three participating artists utilize highly original and sometimes disturbing animal iconography which inevitably brings ethical considerations into play. The program title addresses complex issues of animal propriety in the context of human-animal power relations. Whether each artist operates in an intuitive, sub-ethical way focusing on form rather than meaning remains an open question.

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