

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.

BLACK & 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