

Flash Art International  
 Volume 43, Nummer 270  
 Januar/Februar 2010  
 S.95

# Flash Art

## FLORIAN MEISENBERG

TANJA POL - MUNICH



Above: FLORIAN MEISENBERG, the artist as a model of change, 2009. Installation view at Tanja Pol Galerie, 2009. Right: FLORIAN MEISENBERG, "democracy needs monogamy" (series), 2009. Oil on canvas, 300 x 260 cm. Courtesy Tanja Pol, Munich.

In Florian Meisenberg's first solo show at Tanja Pol Gallery, "the artist as a young clown," hanging from the ceiling are painted fabrics representing snakes coiling round each other, a caricature of a woman standing on her head and some lettering. The colored banners create a path, inviting as much as disturbing, leading the eye to a painting from

the "democracy needs monogamy" series. Here, a number of men's and women's hats circle around the center of the picture. Drips of paint move out of the hats and over the picture ground, giving it a rising dynamic. With complex and often subliminal allusions and an unusually innocent approach when taking a stance about art discourses, Florian Meisenberg questions and twists traditional, standardized ideas of the institutional art system and creates a dense presentation that, with an essay campaigning for art as an authentic dynamic manifesto, responds to traditional reference systems. This is made clearest by the creation of a pictorial cosmos of delicately drawn figures with recurring unduly long noses, spelling out phrases such as "Oh lord" or functioning as musical instruments. The route through this pictorial installation leads to the heart of the show, a large-format picture from the "democracy needs monogamy" series: here all kind of insects with large, empty eyes romp around in magnificently colored robes. This lively swarm is concentrated parallel to a black horizon on the lower edge

of the picture, suggesting that this density symbolizes changes of direction in art. (Translated from German by Michael Robinson)

Pirkko Rathgeber

