

**Thomas Zipp –  
The Forbidden Conduct  
(Deviations in conservative societies)**

Opening: Saturday 22/1/2011 at 8 pm

Dates: 24/1/2011–5/3/2011

Sommer Contemporary Art is pleased to present *The Forbidden Conduct (Deviations in Conservative Societies)*, the second solo-exhibition of artist Thomas Zipp. Zipp's works in installation, painting and sculpture, explore cultural history and its canonical foundations of science, psychology and religion. Zipp's installations become interlinked cultural systems that revolt against preexisting conventions and conformities, adhering to a sense of logic of their own.

In *The Forbidden Conduct* the gallery space becomes a meditation on human psyche. The key to unlocking the warped and dark happenings of the large canvases, and the abstract geometric sculptures, lies in the black and white Xeroxes that hang next to them. These Xeroxes present faces of "society keepers", as the artist calls them. They are priests and nuns, teachers and psychiatrists, all of whose pictures the artist found online and then dealt with whimsically, so as to leave them semi-hidden and anonymous. Their mask of pedagogic sanity is undermined as we are presented with their inner states of being, governed by fantasy, urges and fears. The paintings exist on the seam between figurative and abstract, functioning as hallucinatory mirages that have a strong affinity to the concerns of European Surrealism. The sculptures are in fact mind games, meant to stimulate our sense of analysis, but here they are presented painted white and molded together, thus devoid of their functionality, becoming objects for examination in themselves.

Thomas Zipp (b. 1966), lives and works in Berlin. He is one of the most prominent artists that work in Europe today. For his first solo exhibition in the gallery (*World Health, Mental Health*, 2008), Zipp created an all encompassing installation of a cathedral. For his much-celebrated solo exhibition in Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Zipp transformed the entire museum space into a gigantic mental hospital.

Thomas Zipp participated in numerous solo shows, including: *MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO*, Kunsthalle, Fridericianum, Kassel / *MENS AGITAT MOLEM*, Sammlung Goetz, Munich (2009) / *Dwarf Nose*, Harris Lieberman gallery, New York

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(2008) / *The Family of Ornament und Verbrechen*, Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna (2007) / *Hier (Futuristic Mess)*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich (2006) / *Geist über Materie*, Patrick Painter Inc., Santa Monica / *Achtung! Vision: N.I.B.*, Alison Jacques Gallery, London (2005) / *Dirty Tree Black Pills*, Kunstverein Oldenburg (2005) / *The New Breed*, Galerie Michael Neff und Parisa Kind, Frankfurt/M. (2004) / *od*, Maschenmode – Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin (2000)

His works were shown in various group exhibitions in art institutions that include: *Die andere Seite*, Kai 10, Düsseldorf (2009) / *Berlin2000*, PaceWildenstein, New York (2009) / *Heavy Metal – Die unerklärbare Leichtigkeit eines Materials*, Kunsthalle zu Kiel (2008) / *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll Since 1967*, Museum of Contemporary Art Miami, Museum of Contemporary Art Montreal, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2008/07) / *Vertrautes Terrain – Aktuelle Kunst in & über Deutschland*, ZKM, Karlsruhe (2008) / *Back to Black – Schwarz in der aktuellen Malerei*, kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (2008) / *The Hamsterwheel*, Malmo Konsthall (2008) / *Euro-Centric. Part 1*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami (2007) / *Made in Germany*, kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (2007) / *Defamation of Character*, P.S.1, New York (2006) / *Rings of Saturn*, Tate Modern, London (2006)