

Press release
05.09 - 17.10.2009

MUZI QUAWSON ***The Old Home***

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present the second solo exhibition of London based photographer, Muzi Quawson (1978). Having recently showcased at Bloomberg Space in London (2008-09), this young and promising artist continues to push the envelope with her new film entitled *The Old Home*. Digitally projected on 16 mm footage, the film valiantly explores the political and social-economical elements inherent of American society. Muzi Quawson's unique and off-kilter aesthetic sets the tone for a new generation of photographers.

Set in the rural boundaries of Glasgow, Northeastern Montana (USA), *The Old Home* examines what Muzi Quawson notes as *the nature of existence from society's outsiders*. Over the course of two years, she attempts to uncover the reality of this outlandish, boondocks location. Her primary focus is Ivar "Duke" T Pederson: a loner, an aging cowboy; one who captures the very essence of the *Old American West*. On several occasions over the last two years Muzi Quawson stayed with Duke in his Mid-Western bungalow, exploring the American West and its detachment from modern day civilisation. It is through this rudimentary, unconventional depiction, that Muzi Quawson lures the spectator to explore the nature of existence in this day and age.

In addition to *The Old Home* Annet Gelink Gallery will feature a slide projection entitled *The Hissing of the Summer Lawns* (2008). The slide-show centers around a run-of-the-mill family from Georgia (American). Through this pictorial journey, Muzi Quawson documents their everyday activities; from the mother shopping at the town mall, to the father "playing mechanic" with a flat bed truck. The footage offers a rustic, candid portrayal of their humdrum existence. Similar to *The Old Home*, these pictures function as a subtle investigation of social identity, operating between the lines of photography and film.

The Bakery: Ry Rocklen

Featured in The Bakery, American born artist Ry Rocklen (1978) presents his creatively infused series of work. This is Ry Rocklen's first solo project at the Annet Gelink Gallery. Prior exhibitions include works featured at the Marc Jancou Contemporary in New York City (2009), and at the group show *In Geneva No One Can Hear You Scream* at Blondeau Fine Art Services in Geneva (2008).

For his three-piece mixed-media installation, this Los Angeles native utilizes a plethora of discarded materials, primarily acquired from the streets. His inspiration can be found anywhere from alleyways to hole-in-the-wall thrift stores. For his installation at The Bakery Ry Rocklen has transfigured a pink futon and old rolls of carpet found together in the front yard of a house in his neighbourhood. In using these abandoned materials he gives them a second-life: *transforming the cultural debris...into sculptures that exhibit the complexities of existence* (Rocklen 2009).

Ry Rocklen's cartoon-like *Princess* (2009) is elegantly comprised of a balloon, epoxy putty and glitter, while *Futon* (2009) consists of a futon mattress encased in fiber glass, and covered in iridescent pink tiles. These two sculptures will be exhibited on a pedestal of carpet tiles. Along the walls surrounding this set of sculptures and carpet is a rope from which hangs *Health Medallion White 2* (2009), a wooden circle, engraved, and painted. Atypical of conventional artistic standards, Ry Rocklen audaciously challenges us to look at art from an experimental and refreshing perspective.

Kiki Lamers has been awarded with the Jordaan-Van Heek Prize 2010. On November 18 her solo show will open at the Institut Neerlandais in Paris, and a new publication will appear with it.

15 -18 October: Participation in **Frieze Art Fair**, London, with works by Yael Bartana, Ed van der Elsken, Ryan Gander, David Maljkovic, Muzi Quawson and Marijke van Warmerdam.