

PRESS RELEASE  
April 9 – May 14, 2005

## Kiki Lamers

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present its second solo exhibition of Dutch artist Kiki Lamers (1964).

Kiki Lamers first became known in the early 90's for her sober life-size self-portraits. In the mid 90's she focused on painting children, capturing the unique expression of a spontaneous moment.

Kiki Lamers' oil paintings show a sublime technical mastery. Kiki Lamers has been perfecting a technique, which she has been employing during the past decennia. When photographing Kiki Lamers often uses photographer's lights to set light on her subjects' faces. This is a very bold, merciless approach for the sitter. The artist is moving in very close on her subject. While the small children at play, which Kiki Lamers painted showed little self-awareness in front of a camera, the more grown up subjects in Lamers recent portraits react visibly to the intrusion of the camera. The teenage girl looks back at us with a drawn-up gaze, the aging woman on another canvas answers the camera with a cool held up head, looking down at us as heroically and yet defensively. In these monumental canvases Kiki Lamers manages to capture what Anna Tilroe once called the "uneasiness we feel about having a body".

In her new works Kiki Lamers the drama always present but hidden in her past works comes out with an overwhelming intensity. The wispy grey and pink tints of her former paintings have blended into a deep multilayered anthracite tone. The portraits of a young girl and a small boy have a new sinister soberness. They correspond with the sense of transience apparent in the close-up portraits of fading flowers and branches - a new subject in the artist's oeuvre. And yet they are a subsequent pursue of what the artist has been concentrating on since the beginning of her career: to portrait the aura of a subject.

Kiki Lamers graduated from the Koninklijke Akademie voor Kunst en Vormgeving [Royal Academy of Art and Design] in Den Bosch in 1989 and from the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten [National Academy of Art] in Amsterdam in 1992. Lamers won the Koninklijke Subsidie voor Vrije Schilderkunst (Royal Subsidy for Painting) in 1990. She has participated in major exhibitions in the Netherlands as well as abroad. Kiki Lamers works are present in major international private and public collections.

## The Bakery: Francis Upritchard

The curios items Francis Upritchard (1976) has lined up in The Bakery seem like souvenirs from some adventurous journey: totems, trophies, curios objects. There is the mummified head of a monkey with an enormous grey beard. There are "grave goods" like the pot with classicistic ornaments, which received a lid with a small sculpture of a head. It now greets us as an urn. Dead things come to life in form of a hockey stick grinning at us with its white teeth. It is a mesmerizing Wunderkammer the artist has created in The Bakery. The sculptures of Francis Upritchard have a power over us, which is beyond our control. They amuse us and fill us with uneasiness hard to get hold of.

Francis Upritchard (1976) was born and raised in New Zealand where she studied at the Canterbury University of Fine Arts. Since 1999 she lives and works in London. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include Camden Art Centre London, Artspace Auckland and Andrea Rosen Gallery New York.

Annet Gelink Gallery will be presenting works by among others Anya Gallaccio, Barbara Visser, Carlos Amorales, Ryan Gander, Carla Klein, Kiki Lamers and Ed van der Elsken at the KunstRAI (May 11 – 16, 2005). We are proud to present a new work by Ryan Gander at Statements Art Basel 36 (June 15-20, 2005)

*Annet Gelink Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information please contact Julia Schleyerbach or Floor Wullems, 020-3302066 or [Info@annetgelink.com](mailto:Info@annetgelink.com)*