

Press Release

January 24 – February 28

Group show curated by Angelblood : *The Human face is an empty force, a field of death*

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present the upcoming exhibition curated by Angelblood. Angelblood is a New York based band and art collective formed in 2000 by Rifa Ackermann, Jess Holzworth and Liz Bougatsos. Angelblood creates collaborative artworks, distinguished by a combination of distinctive drawing and edgy collage. In all of its various incarnations, Angelblood is characterized by a raw almost desperate approach to art and life. They consciously abandon order and choose to enter the labyrinth of today's life and experience. In their music as well as in their performances they are concerned with dark motifs and ritualized actions.

For this exhibition Angelblood invited artists to respond to a quote by Antonin Artaud (1896-1948), a visionary French actor, playwright, poet, visual artist and theorist. Artaud was seeking to go beyond the bounds of art and breaking down the barriers between life and art. With his idea of the "Theatre of Cruelty" he proclaims the endless ripping of masks to reveal the passionately desired life behind it. If we are able to contain life in its overwhelming abundance than it would only be through a total experience, an ecstasy, an excess. In Artaud's "Theatre of Cruelty" language stops being representation, an image of something that exists outside itself and where it derives its meaning from.

In the quote Angelblood took that opens with the line "The human face is an empty force a field of death" Artaud is concerned with the notion of portraits. He argues for the human visage which hasn't yet found its face and behooves the artist to find it. "Portraits as mixtures of poems and of written interjections and plastic evocations of elements taken from the material of human or animal forms. They must be accepted in the barbarity and disorder of their visual expression "which never concerned itself with art" but with the sincerity and spontaneity of their creative gesture". Thus an invitation to explore the boundaries of the portrait.

The artists Angelblood has chosen are often close friends because their art is driven by these creative forces which locks them all together in an undefinable category of "the edge". The show will feature works by the following artists. **Rita Ackermann** (1968) had a solo show in the Annet Gelink Gallery in 2000 including her drawings and paintings. **Liz Bougatsos** (1972) and **Jess Holzworth** (1974) work together as artist- duo Boug & Worth, they make trashy, cranky collages, videos and murals. Holzworth is also a fashion designer. **Brian Degraw** (1974), his paintings and installations owe much to music, especially early punk rock, yet also deals with issues of religion, drugs and icons of the white trash. **Mark Gonzales** (1968) is one of the most famous and respected professional skateboarders. In the early 1980's he started painting, he now is a respected artist, working in graffiti, sculpture, film, painting and poetry. **Richard Kern** (1954), in the eighties, he produced a series of short films that now are recognized as the central works of the movement now known as the Cinema of Transgression. In the 90's he switched to photography full time. **Harmony Korine** (1974) broke through as the script-writer of Larry Clarke's controversial film 'Kids' and directed the films 'Gummo' and 'Julien Donkey-boy', he showed photographs in The Bakery in 2000 His frayed images of people on the fringe of society, of American white trash are offensive, sad, poetic and stony at the same time. **Justine Kurland** (1969) is a photographer, while living with different rural Hippy communes she portrayed these hippies by asking them to pose naked in the landscape, like innocents in the garden of Eden. **Inez van Lamsweerde** (1963), important sources of inspiration for her work are the feasibility, perfection and above all the construction of bodies, identity and gender. She often uses the idealized feminine images of the mass media and manipulates them. **Mario Sorrenti** (1971) started documenting his life through photography at the age of 18, he is also a successful fashion photographer. **Andro Wekua** (1977) employs a mix of different techniques to build up a world of images through its richness of visual detail and surprising aesthetics cannot leave the spectator indifferent.

The Bakery: *24/7 alacanzar una estrella/ reaching out for a star*

Set up in London in 2002 by Beatriz López (1975), Sebastián Ramírez, and Pablo León de la Barra (1972), 24/7 functions as an international, independent, mobile and mutant no-budget gallery without a permanent physical space. 24/7's mission is to exhibit whatever, whenever, wherever and is specially committed to showing artists and propositions with less visibility within the London context, while operating outside of the predictable habits of the art world. 24/7 started as a project interested in producing and exhibiting the work of young contemporary Latin American artists whose work questioned the conventional truisms of cultural production from the region. 24/7 is no longer interested in any regional or geographical representation, but in creating its own constellation-map of the world, working with artists who share a similar agenda to its own.

For its exhibition at the Bakery, 24/7 will act as a parasite on the vital organs of Annet Gelink Gallery. The Bakery will be occupied as 24/7's Storage Room, including the 24/7 Collection, where everything belonging to 24/7 will be on display and for sale. This will range from commissions to donated artworks, documentation, memorabilia, souvenirs and leftovers of the produced shows. The profits of the sales of the Collection will be destined to further support 24/7's work. If unsuccessful in obtaining further funds, 24/7 will disintegrate and its members will pursue their own solo careers.

Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 am to 6 pm, Saturdays from 1- 6 pm. For more information please contact Annet Gelink or Floor Wullems ph. +31.203302066 or info@annetgelink.com