

Press release

May 17 – June 21, 2003

Glenn Sorensen

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present eight new paintings of the in Åhus residing artist Glenn Sorensen (1968, Sydney) for his third solo-exhibition in the gallery. In 2000 the gallery organised his first solo-exhibition in the Netherlands and when the Artimo-publication on his work was published in 2001 – with texts by Jennifer Higgin and Lars Bang Larsen – and launched in the gallery, his new work on paper was presented in The Bakery.

Graduated in painting at the City Art Institute in Sydney (1986-88) and the Helsinki Academy of Fine Arts (1990) Sorensen questioned his painting practice for a couple of years. He did no longer feel at home in the medium and turned to photography, installation art and performance. However, since 1996 he returned to painting – and with a new rigour. It is precisely in painting that he now sees a relevance and value that he earlier thought was missing. The realisation to be part of a long history did not make painting abundant but a challenging activity: how is it possible to make interesting contemporary painting?

For Sorensen the answer is close to home. With his paintings of subjects that he finds in his direct homely environment, he hopes to evoke intimate feelings in the viewer – close to his or her home. Instead of the big stories of history painting, he chooses to depict the little things that make life pleasant: plants, flowers, cigarettes and chairs among others.

However, more than the subject it is painting itself that is important to Sorensen. The eight new paintings in this exhibition are above all paintings about painting. It is through the way the paint is applied and the choice of colours and composition that the paintings obtain the intended atmosphere. These paintings are mainly of flowers, whereby it is unclear whether they are painted after nature, or after a poster, a dress or a wallpaper pattern. The colours suggest the latter: artificial purples, pinks and greens are placed against a dark background. The titles (*Flowers and Son, Flowers and Neighbours, Hide and Seek*) create a possibility to leave the depicted and drift off to one's own personal realms. The monochrome background adds to this: it forms a metaphorical space wherein one can pleasantly lose oneself. In this way, Sorensen hopes to give the viewer a silent moment of beauty – away from the daily routine and speed of contemporary life.

The Bakery: Chemi Rosado Seijo

The Puerto Rican artist Chemi Rosado Seijo (1973, San Juan) has, just like Sorensen, graduated in painting although he mainly concentrates on site-specific and project-based work now. For his project 'El Cerro' in the Puerto Rican mountain village Naranjito, of which photographs and documentation will be shown in The Bakery, Rosado Seijo turns to painting to create art with a social-political function. With 'El Cerro' he tries to turn a whole community into an artwork by giving it another story than the one of the village that struggles with drugs, safety and unemployment problems. Rosado Seijo is doing this by painting the houses of Naranjito green together with the local population. A possible interpretation is that the troubled village can hereby disappear into the surrounding mountains, no longer plagued by its bad reputation. Another possible reading is that it will reach the media in a positive way – in its newly painted disguise. The inhabitants were a little suspicious at first: Latin America has a tradition of political parties bribing poor citizens into having their houses painted in the colors of a political party – only for a small financial reward. Rosado Seijo succeeded – bit by bit and with a lot of talking – in persuading the inhabitants of his interest-free deed and managed to turn them into enthusiastic participants. In the meantime about 70% of the village has been painted and other institutions (health and education services) have organised other projects for the inhabitants. And the painting continues... *Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 6 pm, and on Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm. For more information please contact Roos Gortzak (curator The Bakery) or Floor Willems +31.203302066 or info@annetgelink.com.*