

Elodie Pong

Death Valley

28 August until 11 October 2008

In Elodie Pong's latest video-work „Even A Stopped Clock Is Right Twice A Day“, 2008, the preparations of different sorts of birds palaver through superimposed texts about economic coherences and actual states of the world. The phrases seem trivial and superficial about ultimately complex worldeconomic structures and processes, and while a specific knowledge or nescience and certain positions can be amounted to every single bird, it remains unclear if the birds talk in dialogue or isolated from each other. Furthermore the sound-work „Devil Town“ is presented as a room-filling installation, with it's beguiling and melancholic female a-capella-voice, interpreting the correspondent song of Daniel Johnston, building the exhibition „Death Valley“ along with the video.

In this exhibition with it's center of the filmic work, Elodie Pong pursues with her first solo show in Zurich that goes along with the opening of the new premises of Freymond-Guth & Co., her socio-scientific reflections, which are frequently cited by substitutes. In her former works these have been often real, but masked actors in theatrical settings that bargain in a play of unveiling and disguise their truth or staging as well as their cognitive sensitivities and the courses of actions that emanates of it.

As an example her latest works „After The Empire“, 2008, can be cited. In this video long ago deceased or fictitious figures of politics or popular culture – like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, Karl Marx or Batman and Robin – appear. In front of a scenery-like background of a blown-up photography showing an architectural ruin-landscape, they all embody extremes, longings and utopias in a humorous and at the same time elegiac way. The characters in this work act and talk in their phrases and poses with a distant serenity from past ideals but in coeval consciousness of their transitoriness and with their vivid interacting implicate a hopeful gaze in upcoming times.

The talking birds in „Even A Stopped Clock Is Right Twice A Day“ are not only of strange humour but obtain uncanniness as dead creatures that live on as jackets through conserving violence and seem animated by virtue of the underlying text that suggests spoken language and the gentle movements of their plumage.

The situation of the inverted world where animals obtain human qualities and depict with subverted distance ethically and relativising parables remind the genre of the fable. In the work of Pong the birds do indeed take an aloof birds-eye-view on questions concerning the progress of the world economy and the consecutions of the globalisation and talk as substitutes of nature about capitalism. Thereby they aren't capable to embark a univocal direction and elude as well a clear correlation of animal symbolism and representing position.

Such the owl isn't the epitomisation of wisdom and intelligence but rather the symbolisation of an overstraining about the complexity of the world situation by breaking the collected statements with the sentence „I need a drink“. The work is no didactic play but rather a further critical survey of the uncertainty about the intricacy of things and the device of a seemingly evacuated rhetoric that speaks in its ostensible superficiality likewise about the possibilities of many truths and profound comprehensions.

**For further information or image material please contact the gallery:
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Elodie Pong was born in the USA and lives and works in Zurich.

Besides the numberless presentations on film- and videofestivals her works have been presented et al. at the Kunsthau Zurich, CH (g, 2008), Villa Merkel, Munich, D (g, 2008), Musée cantonal des Beaux Arts, Lausanne, CH (g, 2008), Centre d'art contemporain Fri-Art, Fribourg, CH (g, 2007), Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, F (g, 2007), Ursula Blickle Videolounge, Kunsthalle Vienna, A (g, 2006), Occurrence Centre d'art et d'essai contemporains, Montreal, CA (s, 2006), Kunsthau Baselland, Muttentz/Basle, CH (g, 2006), Museum of Modern Art, Belgrade, Serbia (g, 2005), Halle für Kunst Lüneburg, D (s, 2004).

2008 her work will furthermore be presented in Parrota Contemporary, Stuttgart, D, Galeria Lokal_30, Warsaw, PL, Kunst Palast Museum, Düsseldorf, D, FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkerque, F.

At the moment works of the artist are presented at the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, CH (g), Lothringer 13, Munich, D, (g), Kunsthau Zurich, CH (g), Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, D (g).

s= Solo show, g= group show