

Press information

December 2009

Hugo Markl

January 16 to February 27, 2010
Opening: Friday, January 15, 6 – 8 pm

Galerie Eva Presenhuber is pleased to present, after two years, a new solo exhibition by New York-based artist Hugo Markl.

The title of this exhibition goes as follows: "One day 1917, while his director was out sick with a hangover, John Ford made his first feature. VOICE OF JOHN FORD: They brought a lot of people out from the east. I mean, the opening of Universal City, Carl Laemmle had a lot of beauty contestants there. And we had a Western street and a bunch of cowboys. And Mr. Bernstein came riding up and he says: "You're the first assistant, you gotta shoot something while he's here. There's a big bunch of people, over 100." I said, "What will I do?" He says, "Do anything. You know, you let them ride back and forth." So they rode through the streets shooting at everything, you know, for no reason at all. And I said to Mr. Bernstein, "And how was that?" And he says, "Fine." He says he talked with Mr. Laemmle. He says, "Keep on working." I says, "What will I do?" He says, "Have them ride back." So they rode back shooting. Then he says, "Can't you have a couple of falls in there?" I said, "Oh, that will be easy." But these girls are all very pretty. And the cowboys are sort of straightening their kerchiefs up straightening their hats and trying to look as pretty as possible and shining up to these gals. So, I says, "I'll fire a pistol, and you, you and you do a horse fall all fall off your horse." Well, the cowboys looked at one another. So I fired the shot. And then every cowboy – I think there were 30 of them. They all fell off their horses. And I said to Mr. Bernstein, "That's about it, isn't it?" He says, "Oh, no, keep on going. What can you do now?" So I put a lot of kerosene and gasoline on the place and burnt the town down. Of course, the sets were cheap. You know, just built of plywood. And everything didn't cost anything. So I burnt the town down, and they thought it was great. And they had a picture coming up with Harry Carey. And they had no director, and Mr. Laemmle says: "That John Ford, he yells real loud. He'd make a good director."

New works on paper in sublimely colored frames. Motif and title of every piece perform a conceptually ambivalent level. The 25 works, the IQs, came into being as the artist was performing a concentrated reflection on receptive processes per se – misunderstanding resulting from ignorance, and deliberate intellectual error – in relation to the processing of text, film, and art: tradition understood as intellectual auto-digestion.

Within every tradition, overcoming artistic and intellectual key works has been characterized by mixing facts with fiction.

For further information, please contact Paula Stec at Galerie Eva Presenhuber.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday, 12 noon – 6 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm

Upcoming exhibition at the gallery: Sue Williams, Opening: March 5, 6 – 8 pm