

Zweckgemeinschaft

**MICAMOCA, Lindower Str. 22, Berlin
18th September – 17th October 2009**

Opening Thursday 17th September 6-10pm

Curated by Art At Work

Zweckgemeinschaft is a German word describing a “partnership of convenience” an alliance based on an advantage, or on a spread out or specific common interest. This union could be transitory or long-lasting, determined by chance or simply by practical reasons defined by specific situations. The configuration of the three words - zweck, intention; gemein, common and schaft, handle - summarizes in one word a diffused behaviour, common to various people and situations, through a manifestly pragmatic spirit yet free from any moral implication.

Zweckgemeinschaft can be considered a word considerably far from any kind of romantic ideal embodied in a utopian imagery of existence, yet possessing a realistic base independent from any kind of conceptually defined structure. Its definition is applicable both on an individual and collective level, as many recent examples in the contemporary social and political sphere demonstrate: fragmented nations recomposed under the name of the unification of the communities, where the explicit, and sometimes legitimate practical interests represent the real reason of transformation. Since the reunification of Germany the city of Berlin presents itself as a big puzzle in incessant arrangement, composed of agglomerates that speak different languages gathered in a free territory, facing a constant economical instability yet withholding an immense creative richness.

Through the works of 22 artists with dissimilar experiences, interests and researches, *Zweckgemeinschaft* aims to explore art's ability to gather, listen, trace and pursue parallel thoughts and directions, while shedding light on distinctive situations, digging within a personal and common memory without ever forgetting to keep a threshold open for interpretation. The exhibition questions the potential strengths of the processes of creation (*Schaft*), association, layering, adding and subtracting, borrowing the peculiar characteristics of the German language, in its creation of concept-words. The act of assemblage and disrupting without following fixed rules and the impossibility of translating, if not metaphorically, becomes a critical and independent space to explore, cut out in a social and political situation usually imposed. In the same way, the works presented in *Zweckgemeinschaft* are the result of decompositions and re-compositions on a formal and conceptual level: spaces in which to construct and dismantle, in which the individual segments do not find peace if not in their final agglomeration, ready to project and question a beyond. The unexpected, the disorders, the fantastic worlds, the spontaneous associations, developed in their silent potential state of rupture and interruption, become spaces for construction, which underline the exchange of positions between the deviated and the deviant, in the attempt to illuminate an independent and alternative direction and possible newly conceived conscious, critical *Zweckgemeinschaft*.

Initiated by DUVE Berlin, FEINKOST, Klemm's, Kwadart, Maribel Lopez Gallery

www.zweckgemeinschaft.org