

galerie georg nothelfer

press release

madeleine dietz - sculpture and prints

galerie georg nothelfer
Corneliusstraße 3
10787 Berlin

Opening: Friday, March 9th 2007, pm
In presence of the artist
Lecture: Cornelia Wieg (Stiftung Moritzburg, Halle/Saale)
March 9th until the end of June 2007

Galerie Georg Nothelfer is pleased to present sculptures and prints by Madeleine Dietz, a German artist born in Mannheim in 1953. Madeleine Dietz' work has been of particular interest to us for many years now, because of the remarkably intensity in her sculptures, videos, prints and performances. Earth and steel are her signature materials.

During a trip to Africa, Dietz came across a desolate place, the earth parched, cracked, seemingly inert. When she returned some time later, after the dry season, what had been naked, torn ground was now hidden under luxurious vegetation. This "theatre of nature" left a lasting impression upon Dietz. Until now, painting had been her medium, but here she had found something else, a new visual language attuned to necessity.

The inspiration comes from nature's cycles of growth and decay. She mixes soil and water without any form of binding material, spreads the dirt out and allows it to dry. The resultant clumps are then layered. This process, as well as the effects of installation, removal and transport ultimately crumble the soil once again into its smallest grains.

Steel is an equally important medium for Madeleine Dietz. She uses it in various strengths, always untreated, so that the imperfections remain, imparting to the objects a range of colour effects, from "ice blue" to grey and black. The structures usually take the form of vessels for the soil and often this aspect is made even clearer through titles such as "Tresor" (safe).

Formally, her sculptures are abstract figures derived from geometry; circle, ellipse, rectangle, triangle, square, but also pillar and pyramid.

In addition to the free-standing sculptures, which make up the bulk of our exhibition, Dietz also creates site-specific installations which stand for the duration of each show. They survive in the documentary form of photographs. The individual components are later re-used in new sculptures or installations.

Ilka Merkert

Madeleine Dietz will prepare her show between Wednesday March 7th and Friday March 9th. If you like to come and interview her, please don't hesitate to call us. Additional information and pictures will be released at our website: www.galerie-nothelfer.de