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SARAH OPPENHEIMER: N-02
OLAF BREUNING: Two Lakes
von Bartha, Basel
May 13 – July 30, 2022



L-R: Olaf Breuning, Fire II, 2021, Gesso and acrylic on canvas 157.5 x 132.1 cm;
Sarah Oppenheimer, SM-N4, 2021, Aluminum, steel, and existing architecture. Dimensions and duration:
Variable, Installation view: Wellin Museum of Art. USA. Photo Credit: John Bentham.

Von Bartha is pleased to present two solo exhibitions, by New York based artists Sarah Oppenheimer and **Olaf Breuning** in the gallery's Basel space, opening 13 May to 30 July 2022 and coinciding with Art Basel in June. Invoking von Bartha's longstanding engagement with kinetic art, **Sarah Oppenheimer's** work introduces the human motor as an agent of phased movement. For Breuning's second solo exhibition at von Bartha, the artist will display a new series of paintings in dialogue with his sculptures in the gallery's north space.

Known for the manipulation of the built environment, Oppenheimer's latest work, *N-02*, consists of three interconnected 'instruments,' each composed of an elongated black aluminium bar and two linear lighting tracks. Arrayed across the ceiling, lamps weave between gallery walls. Black bars interrupt the wall's white surface.

Visitors are invited to manually manipulate each instrument. Sliding a black bar modulates the position of overhead lights. Touch animates the environment, creating cyclical patterns of change. Elongated black lines merge and separate while luminous stripes of light rise and fall. Gestures overlap and intersect. The energy of human motion intertwines with the frequencies of the environment. As sunlight diminishes and day becomes night, the gallery's reflective façade is transformed into a transparent window. Light diffuses across the building membrane, and the radiance of the oscillating instruments spills into the street.

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Marking a return to Switzerland for Olaf Breuning, the artists' second solo exhibition titled *Two Lakes* at von Bartha, Basel, will present a new vibrant body of work comprising of several large, tactile paintings placed in dialogue with three stone sculptures.

Known for his humorous approach, Breuning uses the world around us to question and initiate conversations about nature itself. For his latest exhibition, the artist will display a new series of paintings, in which he playfully addresses pressing subject matters such as global warming, and environmental disruption. The works on show, which convey Breuning's multi-layered oeuvre, including, large block woodcuts, paintings and sculptural installations, have been inspired by the artists' surroundings in upstate New York, encompassing trees, raindrops and flora and fauna. Using a technique, where he briskly carves into the woodblocks, the landscape motifs are pressed against the picture plane with thick swashes of saturated acrylic paint using highly vibrant colour to bring nature to life and open up questions about how humans interact with the environment and the direct effect we have on it. Placed alongside these large-scale woodblocks on the colourfully painted gallery walls, will be three sculptural works of animals carved out of stone. The sculptures physical presence are sad and depressive, with frowning faces- a reminder that animals don't have a say in the role humans play in nature.

Notes to Editors

Gallery Facts

Basel

Address: von Bartha, Kannenfeldplatz 6, 4056 Basel, Switzerland

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 2 - 6 pm, Sat 11 am - 4 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Copenhagen

Address: von Bartha Copenhagen, Pasteursvej 8, DK-1799 Copenhagen

Telephone: +45 31 66 86 96

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Friday 11 am - 5 pm, Sat 11 am - 3 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Website: www.vonbartha.com

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

About Sarah Oppenheimer

b. 1972 in Austin, USA / Lives and works in New York, USA

Sarah Oppenheimer (b. 1972, USA) is an architectural manipulator. Recent solo projects include Sensitive Machine (Wellin Museum of Art, 2021), N-01 (Kunstmuseum Thun 2020), S-337473 (Mass MoCA 2019), S-337473 (Wexner Center for the Arts 2017), S-281913 (Pérez Art Museum Miami 2016), S-399390 (MUDAM Luxembourg 2016) and 33-D (Kunsthaus Baselland 2014). Her work has been exhibited at such venues as ZKM, the Baltimore Museum, the Andy Warhol Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Art Unlimited at Art Basel, the Mattress Factory, the Drawing Center, and the Sculpture Center. Oppenheimer is currently a senior critic at the Yale University School of Art.

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About Olaf Breuning

b. 1970 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland / Lives and works in Upstate New York

Olaf Breuning (b. 1970, Switzerland) made a name for himself through a multi-layered oeuvre that questions contemporary reality. Since the early 2000s, he created ambivalent photographs and installations that undermine a simple reading of the surrounding world. Recently, Breuning has begun a new series of paintings, in which he playfully addresses pressing subjects such as global warming. The artist currently lives in Upstate New York. He had solo shows at NRW-Forum, Düsseldorf; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Chisenhale Gallery, London; and the Paul Klee Museum, Bern. He participated in the 2008 Whitney Biennial and showed in group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Pompidou Center, Paris; Haus der Kunst, Munich; Kunsthalle Zurich; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Jeu de Paume, Paris; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Whitechapel Gallery, London; and the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo.

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists.

As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and Copenhagen, a hub for innovative art, design and fashion, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

For more information about artists in the von Bartha gallery programme, please visit:
https://www.vonbartha.com/artists

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