

SOLE SEARCHING

6 – 27 July 2013

Opening Friday July 5

Laura Mars Grp is pleased to present *Sole Searching*, a group exhibition with new works by Veronica Brovall, Sonja Gerdes and Zoë Claire Miller. All three Berlin-based artists work with ceramics. Their work will be shown within the context of identity, translation, and tradition. Redefining their practice in challenging ways as women artists, Brovall, Gerdes and Miller translate traditional methods to begin to explore new forms of subjectivity.

Veronica Brovall often uses the visual language of graffiti with violent and absurd gestures on the rich surfaces of her monumental ceramics. Some have protruding orifices which could serve as vessels or could be voids to disappear in, like in "Through Acting". The omnipresent symbol of hands with thumbs-up rip through structures or breast-like shapes, thereby presenting multiple becomings. The sculpture "Eating you Alive" almost loses its balance; the rear of the über-female figure seems to bear the weight of her dripping red interwoven braids as well as her multiple sets of breasts. Letters in black glaze cover the figure. The words 'Wanted' can be easily deciphered, constituting the female figure as an object of desire. **Zoë Claire Miller** transforms traditional pottery. Using familiar household objects, she questions how political fictions are reproduced and circulated. For her "Commemorative Plates for the Euro Crisis" Miller fires each 'failing state', the so-called 'PIGS' countries (Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain) represented by a one Euro coin from the respective country onto a traditional decorative plate, also from each country.* Playing on the notions of consumption, monetary value versus cultural value, Miller desecrates and obscures the coins as she celebrates and distorts regional crafts. A selection of Zoë Claire Miller's 'negative impression' series will also be shown; the sculptures are hung against bright swaths of silk, as detached and dislocated negative imprints of indigenous masks, they reveal a new ethnic entity. Furthermore, one wall will display an abstract mural of luminous brushstrokes made of clay titled, "Wandmalerei Nr. 3" (composition by Markus Selg). "Air for Free" is a slogan generated by **Sonja Gerdes'** self-invented sci-fi/utopian system OxygenEnergizer, which utilizes sculptures, Talismans, textiles and advertising to activate such ideals as belief, trust and optimism. Ever present in her practice -- via hints that transform the action of believing into irony, absurdity or simple disbelief -- is the threat of failure. At the finissage, utilizing her works in the exhibition, Gerdes will premier a performance piece, "The Feet in the Air", during which spectators' future will be foretold through a reading of their foot soles. The performance will begin at 9 pm, Saturday 27th of July 2013. *Sole Searching* is curated by Annabelle von Girsewald.

Veronica Brovall (b. in 1975 Falun, SE) has exhibited at Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden, Kunstverein Schwerin, Sint Lukas Gallery, Brussels, Overgaden Institute for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Norrtälje Konsthall, Sweden, U37- Raum für Kunst, Berlin, and Western International Art Biennale Yinchuan, China curated by Jan Hoet. In 2012 Brovall curated the exhibition "Larger than Life", together with Thomas Hirschhorn and Marcus Steinweg at Galleri 21 in Malmö, Sweden. Brovall's work is found in collections such as Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, USA and Malmö Konstmuseum, Sweden.

Zoë Claire Miller (b. in 1984 in Boston, MA, USA) studied Philosophy, Ethnology and Romance Philology at the University of Heidelberg, as well as Sculpture under John Bock at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe. Miller's works have been shown in international exhibitions such as: "Das Naturkundemuseum Berlin auf LSD zu Gast in München" (with Marlene Stark), Kunsthalle Lothringer 13, München, "A Suitcase Full of Art from Berlin", Alan Nederpelt Gallery, New York, "Kloststellung 1" curated by Fritz Bornstück, Nationalgalerie, Berlin, „Forschung & Nippes“, Tropen, Berlin and "Notes on Form", Société de 032C, Berlin, curated by Carson Chan. In addition she runs the exhibition project Galerie Europa and co-founded the Berlin Art Prize.

Sonja Gerdes' (b. 1979 in Clarholz, DE) recent international exhibitions include "Unblinking Eye" at Kavi Gupta in Berlin, "Pie Of Trouble. Let's Hang. The Energy Plan" at Elephant in Los Angeles, "Gyre And Gimble" (with Lucy Teasdale) at Galerie Gebr. Lehmann in Berlin, and "XXXL Die Schmiede featuring Talisman for Oxygenenergizer" at Galerie Lena Brüning in Berlin.

*The plates are for sale for the price of the date of sale's precise rate of government debt as percent of each country's GDP in Euros.