

Press release: 5 January 2014

DAVID ACHENBACH PROJECTS

I MAY BE WRONG BUT I THINK YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

What: I MAY BE WRONG BUT I THINK YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

When: Opening on 15 February 2014, 12 noon to 8 p.m.

15 February – 9 March, open only at weekends, 12 noon to 8 p.m., or by appointment

Where: Heesenstrasse 70, Tor 3, 40549 Düsseldorf-Heerdt; phone: +49 (0)211 9302142

The space

I MAY BE WRONG BUT I THINK YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL is David Achenbach's inaugural show to open his exhibition space David Achenbach Projects. This first exhibition launches a continuous presentation of contemporary art, with David Achenbach showcasing the latest artistic styles two to three times a year. The art manager has selected a space in a former industrial building in Düsseldorf's Heerdt district. For the inaugural exhibition, he has invited seven artists to display their work over an area of around 200 square metres.

The artists

Kathryn Andrews (1973), Andreas Fischer (1972), Thomas Houseago (1972), Rashid Johnson (1977), David Ostrowski (1981), Angel Otero (1981) and Chris Succo (1979).

The list of artists is itself a clue to the direction the project space is heading in. "I want to show young styles that are being talked about internationally and that already have positions of relevance," David Achenbach says. His choice of Englishman Thomas Houseago, Americans Kathryn Andrews and Rashid Johnson and Puerto Rican Angel Otero demonstrates Achenbach's fine-tuned ability to spot up-and-coming talent. **Kathryn Andrews**, for instance, recently presented disturbingly beautiful installations in Cologne's Museum Ludwig on the topic of the everyday, somewhere between pop art and concept art. **Thomas Houseago** has been attracting the attention of the international art world for some time with his mask-like sculptures. **Rashid Johnson's** exciting pieces tackle the search for his cultural origins. Using a special technique he developed himself, **Angel Otero** takes strong materials to create texturally interesting structures.

However, David Achenbach does not only have eyes for the scene outside Germany. The 27-year-old regularly visits local artists' studios in Düsseldorf, in Cologne – around the Rhineland. In Chris Succo, Andreas Fischer and David Ostrowski, Achenbach has chosen three graduates of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. **Andreas Fischer**, formerly of Georg Herold's master class, invents kinetic machines with moving stories. **David Ostrowski**, who studies under Albert Oehlen, uses meagre materials to paint sparse patterns. The impression is of an artist who stops painting just before the impetus leaves him. Meanwhile **Chris Succo**, also a protégé of Georg Herold's, stretches a light-hearted tightrope between gestural and constructivist painting.

David Achenbach

Only few curators manage to keep their research both at home and abroad entirely up to date. David Achenbach learned his craft during his management studies in Munich, at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London and, thereafter, as an art consultant with Berenberg Art Advice. Today, as a managing director at State of the Art – International Art Advisory, he is responsible for collection development. As such, he is always on the look-out for fresh talent to add to his clients' collections.

Over the years, David Achenbach felt a growing desire to be able to exhibit "his" discoveries, to make them accessible to a wider audience. Thanks to David Achenbach Projects, works of art by selected artists can now be shown in an innovative environment.

The experiment

David Achenbach Projects is an experiment. The project space is not a gallery in the conventional sense, but neither is it a commerce-free museum. That is to say, David Achenbach does not enter into fixed ties to particular artists. He very deliberately chooses styles for his exhibitions which he considers important, so that he can keep an eye on the works of art produced over an extended period of time. In so doing he collaborates with galleries, private collectors and museums.

A nod to the Rhineland

Last but not least, David Achenbach Projects is a nod to its location, the Rhineland. The new project space joins the ranks of a lively Düsseldorf scene, including such private institutions as the Julia Stoschek Collection, the KAI 10 art space and the Philara collection.