

"To The Demon King's Castle, of course..."

M+M **Wolfgang Weileder**

Preview: Friday 20th March 6 – 9pm
21st March – 18th April 2009
Tues - Sat, 11am -5pm (or by appointment)

Workplace Gallery is delighted to present: "*To The Demon King's Castle, of course...*" an exhibition of recent work by M+M and Wolfgang Weileder. Central to this exhibition are strategies of making art that subvert the representation of architecture and contemporary media whilst negotiating the boundaries between public and private, presenting us with a re-examined view of our common urban experience as mediated through cinema and popular culture.

Loop by **M+M** is a large wall drawing of a motif developed as part of *Autobahnschleife – Motorway Loop*, in which the artists designed an exit road to be built as a 360-degree arc, exiting and rejoining a motorway as it traverses an Alpine valley. Proposed as a public artwork the plans for this structure have come tantalizingly close to realization capturing the imagination and enthusiasm of motorists equal and opposite in measure to the hiatus engendered by the bureaucratic systems that such propositions frustrate. Installed in the main gallery space *Loop* is an emblem for the human desire of freedom and escape and an anti-authoritarian counter to the institutional and political repression intrinsic within the systems and strata of our society. Adjacent to *Loop* M+M have also extracted short excerpts from the film *Get Carter*, the cult 1970's gangster film in which Gateshead's Trinity Court car park is used in several key scenes and referred to in the dialogue of the film as *The Demon King's Castle*. This work is complimented by *A Batman's Trip*, a sound work constructed from the combined audio excerpts from the *Batman* movies of Batman in his car. Compiled on a vinyl record the record is played in the gallery as a sound installation. Throughout the rest of the building M+M present sound and video works from their diverse and conceptually complex practice: *The Governor* is a road-movie/re-enactment starring a puppet of Arnold Schwarzenegger as Schwarzenegger traveling through California and delivering speeches at familiar viewpoints along the route of his electoral campaign. The stop frame animation and the banal monologue reference popular culture and a strong cinematic heritage: the Californian landscape of the 'road movie' genre is as familiar an icon as Schwarzenegger to cinemagoers of the 1990's. *Torrance Room* an installation combining a reading by actor Jörg Pleva of the book *Was Du Heute Kannst Besorgen...* published by M+M. Itself a publication in German of the fictional book being written by Jack Torrance (played by Jack Nicholson) in Stanley Kubrick's film *The Shining*. In the film the content of the book is comprised entirely of the sentence "*All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy*" typed over and over again. Within the space the cold light of a single fluorescent tube creates an unnerving homage to both the film and the psychosis it portrays.

Wolfgang Weileder responds to the current demolition of *Trinity Court Shopping Centre* (Owen Luder's brutalist *Get Carter Car Park*), an iconic and controversial building next to the site of Workplace Gallery. In an extension of his photographic practice Weileder has used a high-resolution digital camera attached to bespoke software and 3 computers to take thousands of time-lapse photographs of the demolition of the Trinity Court Centre over a period of 24 hours. Weileder has then taken vertical slices one pixel wide from the images to construct a new photograph that charts the passing of time (within a single pixel width) for the duration of a single day. Representing time, but *not* space, Weileder achieves abstraction in its truest sense; the aesthetically pleasing result becomes an accidental and secondary byproduct of his methodology, despite beguiling visual references to modernist abstract painting and an uncanny resemblance of the original pictorial view. Alongside this work *Sky Deck* is a 1:1 scale reconstruction in breezeblock and scaffolding of a the top floor of the car park (a defining feature that has dominated Tyneside's skyline since the late 1960's). Spanning 2 floors of the gallery building this ambitious intervention serves to physically and directly confront the viewer with Luder's utopian edifice: the architectural crown of *The Demon King's Castle*.

M+M are collaborative duo Marc Weis (b.1965, Germany) and Martin De Mattia (b.1963, Germany) based in Munich. They have exhibited internationally including solo exhibitions at: Museum Franz Gertsch, Bern/burgdorf; Museum of Photography, Berlin; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal; Villa Massimo, Rome and group exhibitions including: *Man Son* Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; *Movie Painting* NCCA Moscow; *Die Gegenwart der Linie* Pinakothek der Moderne Munich; *say it isn't so*, New Museum Weserburg, Bremen; *Saltuna Projekt* Rooseum, Malmö, and *Stories* Haus der Kunst, Munich. **Wolfgang Weileder** (b.1965, Munich) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich in the mid 1990's, and the School of Visual Arts in New York. He currently lives in Newcastle upon Tyne where he is Professor of Contemporary Sculpture at Newcastle University. Weileder has had numerous solo projects including *House-Birmingham*, IKON Gallery, Birmingham; *Transfer*, Milton Keynes Gallery; *Slapend Meermin*, STUK Kunstencentrum, Belgium; *Le Terme*, Ciocca Arte Contemporanea, Milan; and group shows including Tampere International Film Festival 2006, Finland, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK

For further information regarding any of the works in the exhibition please contact sales@workplacegallery.co.uk
The next exhibition at Workplace Gallery will be a solo exhibition by **Jo Coupe** opening on 2nd May 2009.

