

Zin Taylor The Units

**An Exhibition at the
Ursula Blickle Foundation
May 29 – July 10, 2011**



ZIN TAYLOR, White Pearl Sunshine Summoning Charm, 2007

In the spring of 2011, the Ursula Blickle Stiftung will host the first survey show of Brussels-based Canadian artist **Zin Taylor** (*1978), titled "The Units".

Zin Taylor has become known internationally for his elaborate installations encompassing elements of performance and sculpture along with drawing, printing and video. Narration is an essential ingredient of much of Taylor's multi-faceted work, and his stories are often culled from the undergrowth of popular culture (more specifically underground music scenes) and contemporary art lore: In the work *Put Your Eye In Your Mouth: a conversational documentary recording Martin Kippenberger's Metro-Net Station in Dawson City, Yukon* (2007) and *The Crystal Ship* (2008) are built around the legacies of two renegade conceptualists, with the latter work having been described by the artist himself as "a journalistic narrative that approaches the visual working practice of Marcel Broodthaers as a contextual frame to interpret a series of landmarks within an Antwerpen neighborhood." Journalism, research, storytelling: not surprisingly, both the spoken word and the printed word figure prominently in Taylor's practice (the artist himself belonging to a generation of practitioners for whom a definite facility with language, both on a theoretical and literary level, has become a key aspect of artistic identity), and many of his installations have also been accompanied by publications and/or artist books – this is again true of the current exhibition – as well as by posters "announcing" the work of art or project as an "event".

In recent years, Taylor's work appears to have become more abstract or, more precisely perhaps, more absolute: works such as *The Wishing Well*, *White Pearl Sunshine Summoning Charm* and *The Flute of Sub* (a video installation and sculpture that was also included in a group exhibition at the Ursula Blickle Stiftung in 2009), all dating from 2007, seem to presage the overarching concerns of *The Bakery of Blok* (2009) and the series of works that have issued from it, most of which revolve around, or boil down to, a fundamental interrogation of the mysteries of (sculptural) *form*. Here, the artist's long-standing interest in traditions of craft and seemingly archaic practices of *Gestaltung* and manual production acquires its true depth: "classical" sculpture (or the drawing of "classical" sculptural elements), however mongrelized, becomes the privileged vehicle for the artist's programmatic probing of one of art's enduring enigmas – how does form come about? How does a work of art emerge? How does art *grow*? Organically, i.e. naturally? The title of the exhibition *The Units* is in itself an allusion to the irreducible nature of sculpture's essential building blocks in units of both matter – and Taylor's art is becoming more and more "materialist" indeed – and time. The apparition of sculptural form as a marvel of modular magic, working its way through the Ursula Blickle Stiftung's architecture – that, in a nutshell, is the storyline of the units' unfolding.

Exhibition Venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation
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Press Information

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Press Images

Images will be made available on the foundation's website: www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Publication

An artist's book with texts by Dan Adler, Dieter Roelstraete, Mark von Schlegell, and others will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

Preview

Please reserve by telephone or fax:
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

Exhibition Dates

May 29 – July 10, 2011

Opening Event

Saturday, May 28, 2011, 7 p.m.

Welcome: Ursula Blickle
Introduction and Performance:
Zin Taylor and Dieter Roelstraete

Curator

Dieter Roelstraete,
Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerpen

Opening Hours

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.
and by appointment

Closing Event

July 10, 2011, 4 p.m.

Lecture and conversation:
Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, art historian, Stuttgart

We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!

