

PRESS RELEASE

DIANA THATER

22 June – 11 July 2009

Swallow Street, 3 – 5 Swallow Street, W1B 4DE

Hauser & Wirth presents Diana Thater's *Untitled Videowall (Butterfly)* (2008) in our Swallow Street gallery. This will coincide with her participation in an exhibition at London's Natural History Museum that will include an installation of *gorillagorillagorilla*. Thater's works merges different kinds of spaces: the flat screens of video, the architecture that encloses them and the spaces inside viewers' heads. Whilst her pieces create ambient, immersive environments of chromatic intensity, ultimately they celebrate the individual's solitary subjective experience.

Thater's work explores the near-impossibility of experience outside the influences of culture. Her installations describe a technologically mediated nature while laying bear the mechanics of media representation. Animals feature as a re-occurring subject matter, yet when manipulated by Thater through video monitors and light saturated environments they attain a baroque artificiality heightened by the complete absence of sound. To make *gorillagorillagorilla* (2009), commissioned by the Kunsthhaus Graz and the Natural History Museum, she spent time filming in Cameroon's Mefou National Park lowland gorilla reserve, where the endangered species is protected from hunters. The large-scale, multipart video installation turns the jungle into an interactive show in which the gorilla's gaze reflects back on us.

In *Untitled Videowall (Butterfly)*, five video monitors form a petal formation on the floor. They are bathed in an orange glow that emanates from a strip light placed in the corner of the room. Depicting butterflies in motion, their patterns display a complex choreography, presenting the viewer with what Thater has described as 'a theatrical encounter with the otherworldly.'

Diana Thater was born in 1962 in San Francisco. She studied at New York University and Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Thater began exhibiting her video installations in 1990 and her work has featured in significant international exhibitions. Major solo shows include 'Diana Thater. Orchids in the Land of Technology' at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1997); 'Projects 64: Diana Thater: The best animals are the flat animals', MoMA, New York (1998); 'Knots + Surfaces', DIA Center for the Arts, New York (2001); and 'gorillagorillagorilla', Kunsthhaus Graz (2009). 'gorillagorillagorilla' tours to the Natural History Museum, London, where it can be seen as part of 'After Darwin: Contemporary Expressions' from 26 June until 29 November.

An exhibition of new work by David Claerbout can be seen at 196a Piccadilly until 1 August.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS LONDON:

MARTIN EDER

Hauser & Wirth London, 15 Old Bond Street, 10 – 26 September 2009

SUBODH GUPTA

Hauser & Wirth London, 196a Piccadilly and 15 Old Bond Street, 1 – 31 October 2009

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS ZÜRICH:

PIPILOTTI RIST, 29 August – 17 October 2009

For further information and artwork material, please contact

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