

'Flash Art', July 2008, Milan/IT

## Isa Genzken

Hauser & Wirth

Isa Genzken's exhibition at Hauser & Wirth is a cacophony of imagery, colors and materials. Ladders and ripped sofas hang from the ceilings in the downstairs space. Among the disarray on floor level, two faux-classical figures spray-painted gold are presented in domestic bliss before an ironing board strewn with colored paper. Elsewhere another figure lies prone, giving birth to a plastic pig, while nearby a toy monkey sits languidly atop a tower, decked out with a cheap crown and multi-colored finery.

Despite their chaos of everyday, found materials, Genzken's sculptures are not without form, especially those in the upstairs gallery space, which conform to a more rigid narrative. Presented, appropriately enough, in the American Room, these sculptures act as a series of architectural proposals for Ground Zero. This is the first time that Hauser & Wirth has exhibited work in this part of the gallery, and the room's wood-paneled walls offset the frantic yet seductive nature of Genzken's sculptures perfectly.

While the Ground Zero works are far removed from formal architectural models, they remain surprisingly plausible propositions, for which Genzken apparently consulted a team of engineers to ensure that each one could be realized to the approximate scale of the World Trade Center Towers. The idea of seeing them at that size is dizzying and exciting, for they each retain Genzken's wild styling, in spite of their envisaged social purpose, as a hospital, church, car park, disco, shopping center and memorial tower. The hospital is topped

triumphantly with an enormous bunch of flowers, the church with a spray-painted skull, and the memorial is strewn with camera film, presumably alluding to the mass recording of the fall of the towers. Far from frivolous, Genzken's sculptures act as homage to the skyscraper, while offering a vision of Ground Zero as a DayGlo wonderland.

**Eliza Williams**



ISA GENZKEN, exhibition view at Hauser & Wirth, London 2008.