

HAUSER & WIRTH

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Press Release

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'TIMOTHY GALOTY & THE DEAD BRAINS,' FIRST AMERICAN EXHIBITION OF WORK BY JAKUB JULIAN ZIOLKOWSKI, TO GO ON VIEW IN NEW YORK

Hauser & Wirth New York

June 30 – July 30, 2010

Opening: Wednesday, June 30, 6 – 8 pm

New York, NY...Jakub Julian Ziolkowski's phantasmagorical paintings roil with colorful mutant life: plants sprout eyeballs, bodies go about their business while sloughing off limbs and disgorging organs, and dense vegetal landscapes transform into visceral surgical tableaux. Vibrant and perverse, anthropomorphic and surreal, Ziolkowski's private language is the symbolic expression of a highly concerted imagination that also was shaped by life in a very small town: Zamosc, where the artist was born in 1980, is a remote Renaissance city that began as a fortress in the middle of the lush Roztocze plateau in southeast Poland. Here wild nature penetrates the edges of an idealized urban microcosm that was once a center of intellectual life and seat of Eastern Europe's Chasidic Jewish community, later stained by Nazi atrocities, and today is home to a concentration of food factories. Influenced by Zamosc's dream-like intersection of preserved history and encroaching modernity, Ziolkowski has nurtured an inner world where poetry and ornament, religiosity and eschatology, flourishing life and decay intertwine. This is the universe of Ziolkowski's art.



On June 30, Hauser & Wirth New York will unveil the first American solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Jakub Julian Ziolkowski, bringing together more than 50 new works. The exhibition will be presented on two floors of the gallery and will remain on view through July 30.

The exhibition is titled 'Timothy Galoty & The Dead Brains,' named for a fictional rock band that appears in some of the artist's images (the word galoty in Polish means 'short pants' of the sort worn by Eastern European circus clowns). Among the paintings on view at Hauser & Wirth are several that evoke promotional posters for such fantasy bands. Their members can be counted among the large and colorful population of characters inhabiting Ziolkowski's work, standing in for the artist's own moods and serving as composite portraits of both human types and states of mind. These include jaunty skeletons and autonomous eyeballs that return the viewer's gaze; implement-wielding doctors in white coats; women with pendulous breasts and animal heads; monks with even more pendulous earlobes, regarding the universe; fat drinkers defecating gold coins;

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a host of political figures and everyday citizens going about strange business; and Ziolkowski himself, bespectacled and smoking a cigarette as he surveys the scene and waves to us.

'Timothy Galoty & The Dead Brains' includes surreal portraits, lavishly detailed fantasy landscapes, and works of eccentric figuration that combine the two. Ziolkowski has been profoundly influenced by his small town upbringing, the folk traditions and stories of Poland, and his nation's more recent and dark history. But while these permeate the atmosphere of his oeuvre, Ziolkowski's paintings do not dwell in the past. In this regard, Ziolkowski departs definitively from immediate predecessors among leading Polish artists, including Pawel Althammer, Wilhelm Sasnal and Monika Sosnowska, who have used their work to deconstruct and critique Polish identity. Ziolkowski's work is less overtly about history – his own as well as that of his troubled homeland – than about escape from a bleak personal and cultural inheritance, and a simultaneous celebration of art and artmaking.



Ziolkowski's work principally emerges from his fantasies, which are translated into imagery that appears as if in a psychedelic dream – by turns funny and frightening, confounding yet familiar. In the midst of this, Ziolkowski is careful to remind us that he is no naïf, but is tethered to reality and engaged in the centuries of artistic practice and innovation from which he descends. One painting matter-of-factly depicts a whirlpool of feces. Another shows a well-attended surgical procedure with many recognizable public figures. And in another work, the eyes of a Vietnamese girl reflect a threatening policeman, presumably a reference to the artist's travels in Asia in 2009. In all of these, viewers can find references to milestones in the history of art, with Ziolkowski cannily connecting the dots between Leonardo da Vinci, Hieronymus Bosch, James Ensor, Pablo Picasso and Philip Guston.



About the Artist

Jakub Julian Ziolkowski was born in Zamocs, Poland in 1980. He trained at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts, Faculty for Painting and Drawing, in Krakow, where he currently lives and works.

Ziolkowski has had solo exhibitions at F.A.I.T. Gallery, Krakow (2007), Hauser & Wirth London (2006), Foksal Gallery, Warsaw (2005) and the Academy of Fine arts, Krakow (2004). He was recently included in the group shows 'psyche' at Galerie Dennis Kimmerich, Düsseldorf and 'Schüttelreime' at Office Baroque Gallery, Antwerp (both 2008). In 2009, his work was featured in the exhibition 'Younger Than Jesus' at the New Museum in New York City.

Upcoming exhibitions include '1000 Lives,' The 8th Gwangju Biennale 2010, in Gwangju, Korea in autumn 2010, curated by Massimiliano Gioni. At the same time, the artist will have a solo exhibition at Zacheta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw.

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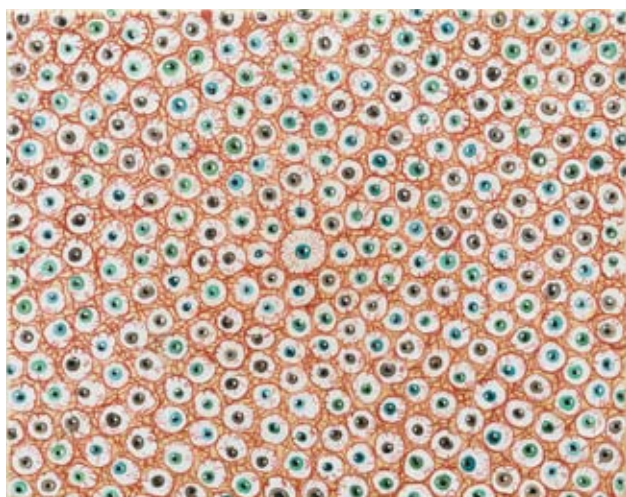
About Hauser & Wirth

Hauser & Wirth is a global enterprise, founded in Zürich in 1992 by Iwan and Manuela Wirth and Ursula Hauser. Since 1996 the gallery has been located in the former Löwenbräu brewery building, along with other contemporary art galleries, the Kunsthalle Zürich, and the Migros Museum.

In 2003, Hauser & Wirth opened Hauser & Wirth London on Piccadilly in an historic building designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, adding a new and energetic dimension to London's growing importance as an international art center. In 2006, Hauser & Wirth at Colnaghi was created on London's Old Bond Street. Hauser & Wirth New York opened to the public on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in September 2009. In September 2010, the gallery will open a new London space on Savile Row.

Hauser & Wirth New York is open to visitors Monday through Friday, 10 am until 6 pm from June to July. The general public can find additional information about the gallery, its exhibitions and programs online at: www.hauserwirth.com.

For additional press information or to obtain images for publication, please contact hwny@andreaschwan.com.



Forthcoming Exhibitions:

Anj Smith

September 8 – October 2, 2010

Dieter Roth

October 6 – October 30, 2010

Monika Sosnowska

November 4 – December 18, 2010

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The Mystery of Neocortex
2009-2010
Oil on panel
44 x 42 cm / 17 3/8 x 16 1/2 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Timothy Galoty & The Dead Brains
2010
Oil on canvas
144 x 110 cm / 56 3/4 x 43 1/4 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Untitled (Montana)
2010
Gouache and ink on paper
87.8 x 70.4 cm / 34 5/8 x 27 3/4 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Untitled (Fear)
2010
Oil on canvas
142 x 125 cm / 55 7/8 x 49 1/4 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Untitled
2010
Oil on canvas
38 x 48 cm / 15 x 18 7/8 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Untitled (Fighting Mothers)
2010
Oil on panel
40 x 38 cm / 15 3/4 x 15 in
© Jakub Julian Ziolkowski
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth