

## **Pipilotti Rist – Press Release for Exhibition at the Galerie Hauser & Wirth 31 March – 19 May 2001**

Pole vaulting in the chapel, bicycling in the laudromat, sky diving in the elevator shaft – such seemingly surrealist combinations of spaces and unexpected uses were outlined by architect Bernard Tschumi as early as 1983. The Löwenbräu building in Zurich is a striking example of this tendency (which has meanwhile become a fashion) to assign new functions to existing urban structures.

Pipilotti Rist, the Swiss video artist, has her first show at the Galerie Hauser & Wirth, inaugurating their new exhibition space on the ground floor of the former brewery building. Her new video installation, conceived specially for this space, makes the stimulating potential of the idea of converting and reprogramming spaces the starting point of her intervention.

Communicating with the existing architecture and its former use, Pipilotti Rist examines potential other, new activities that can take place in a space apart from its objectivised use. Her goal is to activate widely differing, simultaneous and overlapping uses. Leaving the architecture as authentic and intact as possible, she follows the transparently readable traces of the work once done here: beer spurts from the tiled pillars, and rusty iron hooks jut out into the room. The space conjures up images oscillating from a sacred cathedral to a mysterious hammam or a copper beverage storage.

The video projections focus on the fuzzy boundaries between inside and outside with concentrated, almost autistic attentiveness. The floatingly subjective camera pays homage to the traces of human activity.

It takes a human being to experience space, and so the experiencing visitor becomes part of the artist's probing: is it human movement and activity that generate the experience of a space? Does movement and body behaviour for example in a fitness studio differ from that in an exhibition space? Is body behaviour caught up in predetermined patterns of use? Do different spatial concepts bring about different patterns of movement, gaze and body awareness? What happens if contexts of use overlap – if for example people exercise in an exhibition space while others look at art exhibits in a fitness studio? And is it not that after visiting an art show we feel the need for mental and physical relaxation in a meditative landscape?

This exhibition project is in collaboration with CIT Fitness-Center, Limmatstrasse 270, CH-8005 Zürich.

Pipilotti Rist was born in the Rhine Valley in eastern Switzerland in 1962 and lives in Zürich. [www.eyekon.ch/pipilotti](http://www.eyekon.ch/pipilotti) and [www.ghw.ch](http://www.ghw.ch).

Exhibition projects for 2001

Solo exhibitions: Tramway, Glasgow, Show a Leg, 4.5.-10.6.2001; Central Museum Utrecht, 16.8.-18.10.2001; Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, 16.10. – 20.12. 2001.

Group exhibitions: Casino Luxembourg, Confidences, 12.5.-15.7.2001; Yokohama Pacifico Triennale, Mega Wave, 2.9.-11.11.2001; MMK Frankfurt, 20. Szenenwechsel, 28.9.-3.3.2002, and others.

Conversion of the new exhibition space: Paul Robbrecht and Hilde Daem Architects, Gent/Belgium (Kunstzicht, Gent 1987/ Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam 1997 / etc.). Site supervision: Trunz&Wirth, Henau.

Project team Galerie Hauser & Wirth exhibition: Michèle Aina, Aufdi Aufdermauer, Sushma Banz, Florian Berktold, René Fahrni, Esther Flury, Claudia Friedli, Irene Gattiker, Emil Guggenbühl, Anders Guggisberg, Mich Hertig, Marcel Mathis, Marc Payot, Cornelia Providoli, Elianne Reutemann, Mirella Roma, Rahel Sprecher, Anita Schwank, Peter Thöni, Pius Tschumi, Käthe Walser, Lukas Willen, Beat Zraggen.

*Press viewing: Friday, 30 March 2001, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The artist will be present from 11 a.m. to 12.*

