

Claire Fontaine, Galerie Meerrettich im Glaspavillon an der Volksbühne

Claire Fontaine is a faction made up of factions, since everyone of us contains one and many at the same time. In her movements she is sometimes a fugitive sometimes a refugee, struggling through the contradictions of her time and her milieu, all the while looking for the means of escape.

In her first exhibition, she presents herself as a signmaker - of signs that blur the distinction between inside and outside, slogans and concepts, artwork and advertisement. She is born and has grown up in the time of totalitarian democracies, where terms like "power" and "work"- which had led us in the past to imagine radical transformations of the society - have been progressively turned against themselves. Likewise, the process of the detournement functions in her practice as an indicator of painful evidences known to all. The renunciation of the quest for "authenticity", that follows from this position, is linked to the fact that freedom in the creative process is to be found in collective and not in individual space. The political conditions that organise our perception of reality show us a reassuring landscape that hides a battlefield, she moves in this opaque territory putting together the fragments of a confused archeology, made out of what we don't understand and we can't imagine.

The wasteland left by the disappearance of the author is Claire Fontaine's playground and her laboratory of desubjectivisation. Claire Fontaine is young and playful because destroying rejuvenates her.

C.F. Berlin, December 2004