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Reading Off The Surfaces

Claire Barclay

Opening reception: Friday March 18th from 5 to 8 p.m.
March 19th through April 16th 2011.
Wednesday – Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. (or by appointment)

We have invited the Scottish sculptor Claire Barclay to create a site-specific sculptural installation for our space. Many of the various elements for the installation (works in steel, fabric, leather, machined aluminium, rubber ...) have been made during a residency at The National Danish Art Workshops, and the work completed in the exhibition space in dialogue with the spatial conditions offered here by the floor, the walls, light, scale etc. To Barclay, a sculpture is essentially not an isolated phenomenon but rather a result of an interchange with a specific spatial situation.

This concept of sculpture as a provisional response to a situation which changes from one room to the next can be traced in the physical construction of the works and in their interrelations. At first glance Barclay's sculptural installations may appear as stable systems constructed with material perfectionism, simplicity and rationality – reflected in, for instance, the perfect material finish of the works and in their clarity and comprehensibility. On the other hand, there is a constant 'discord' in these sculptures, an instability which shatters the perfection: crumpled rags and blots of liquid on the floor, small frailties and shapes out of balance. These more imperfect traits (which can in fact also be found *on* the surface, not only beneath it; for instance in the way one shape overlaps another in one of the prints), counteract the finished character of the works and at the same time establishes a fundamental connection with our physical presence in the space. Both Barclay's sculptural works and her works on paper can be perceived as formulations of the psychological and affective space which lies beneath our practical and functional relations to the objects. Among other things Barclay's sculpture installation here at The Sculpturi contains questions concerning our relations to objects when function and rationality must yield in favour of tactility, ornament and desire.

Claire Barclay was born in Scotland in 1968 and studied art in Glasgow in the eighties and nineties. Since then she has been part of numerous exhibitions in Scotland as well as internationally and she is widely renowned for her sculptural/architectural installations. In 2003 she represented Scotland in the Venice Biennale with an installation at the Palazzo Guistinian-Lolin, and her solo exhibitions include Tate Britain in 2004 and Whitechapel Gallery in 2010. Barclay's exhibition here at The Sculpturi will be the first time her work is shown Denmark.

Sincerely
The Sculpturi

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