

ABA art contemporani presents,

Sergio de Beukelaer WATCH MORE CANVAS

Press conference with presence of the artist: Thursday, May 4th, 12:00h.

Opening: 5th of May, 8:00p.m.

Exhibition: 5th of May 2006 - 16th of July 2006

The gallery ABA Art Contemporani is excited to present our upcoming exhibition, "Watch more Canvas," of the young Belgian artist Sergio de Beukelaer.

The works of Sergio de Beukelaer (born in 1971, Deure/ Belgium) at first glance seem to be simple, yet they combine different paradoxes. In the concept of the "Fat Canvas," a three-dimensional painting, the artist leaves the area of traditional painting, and enters new worlds of arts. In this connection he uses numerous codes of the post-modern art of the 60's and 70's, such as abstraction, geometry, monochrome, and the technique of "hard-edge". Always, he adds a few touches of irony, which is more an attribute of the minimalists. You also find links to pop, op- and concept-art. The work appears to be contradictory: figurative and abstract, plain and spacious, text and image, painting and sculpture...elements are contracting and completing each other at the same time.

Sergio uses his "Fat Canvas" as a medium to demonstrate his imagination and ideas of the world which surround him. The wish to combine painting and space, much like his fascination for Andy Warhol, Pop-art and the "Blow-up" concept, made him think about inflating his workspace: the idea of the "Fat Canvas" was born; many times prior, artists have blown up different things, but a canvas on its' own - never.



The title of the coming exhibition "Watch more Canvas" is based on the slogan "Watch more TV." Behind the word-play stands the big idea that perhaps there are no differences between watching television and watching art. Barriers and doubts that people feel whilst connecting with art, de Beukelaer wants to break these down and construct his work, as producing a tv-show...imagine "Watch more Canvas XX." Using the color-scheme of the video-test- image, he bridges between these two worlds.

The exhibition "Watch more Canvas" pays homage to Mondrian, the great artist of abstraction who is, as well as Barnett Newman and Donald Judd, one of de Beukelaer's main influences. All these artists have shown in their work that the borders between painting and sculpturing could indeed, melt. The piece "My Studio as a Mondrian," he used the map of his apartment, and created surprising color-combinations based on the works of

K. Malevich, Josef Albers, Peter Halley... By using only three materials: canvas, paint and wood, he creates endless combinations of art, an adventure between smooth acrylic color and the geometry.

Sergio de Beukelaer lives and works in Antwerp. His art is known world-wide, thanks to great exhibitions in major European cities such as Barcelona, Cologne, Paris, San Mignano and Brussels, as well as presence in the United States, in New York and Miami. During the last years his work was presented at international art fairs for contemporary art such as *Art Basel Miami Beach* and *ARCO Madrid*.