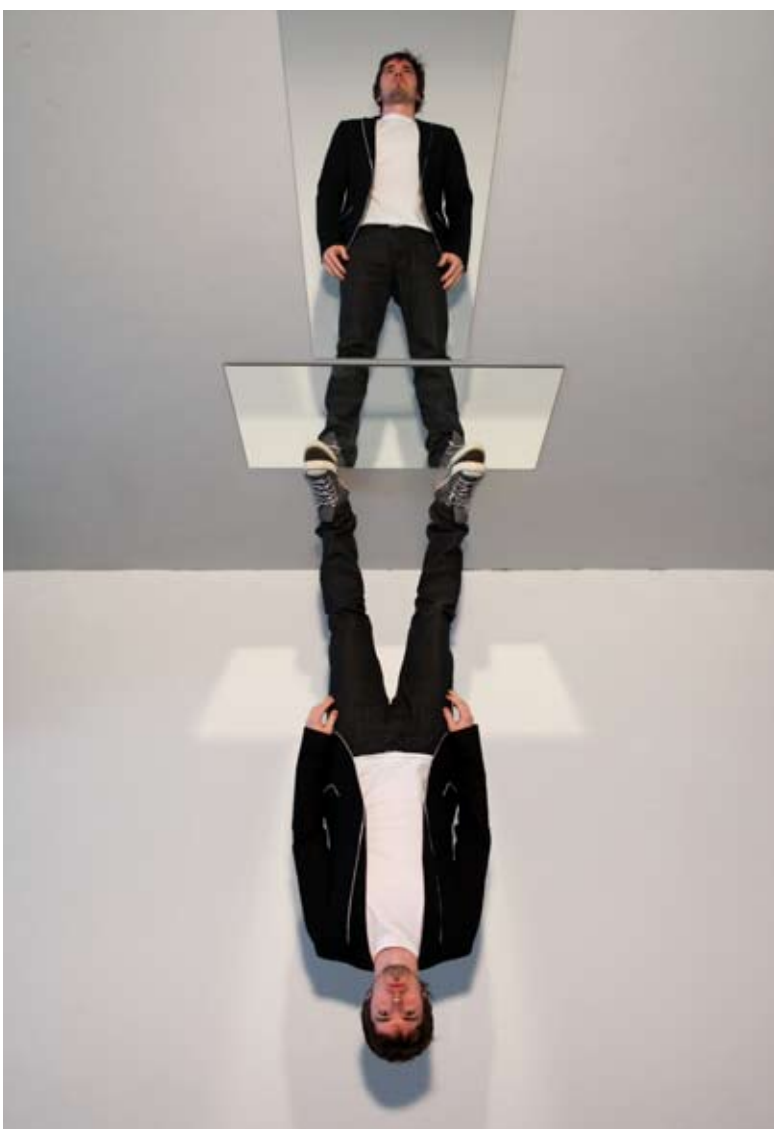


P A I N T I N G S
F R O M T H E S T U D I O
/
J A Y B O W E R



E D U C A T I O N
&
E X H I B I T I O N S

Born 1980 in Zurich, Switzerland. Lives and works in Zurich and Treviso

EDUCATION

- 1997-98 Vorkurs (Pre-artclass) at School of Art Lucerne (CH)
1998-02 Grafic & Art at School of Art Lucerne (CH)
2000 6 months stage in London at Studio Fly (Art & Grafics) (UK)
and Lomography London (Photography)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 IMAGINARY EXPEDITIONS, Gallery Four Seasons, Stockholm
2010 IS IT REAL? Gallery Sonjart, Rapperswil (CH)
2010 HOME SWEET HOME, projectspace The apartment, Zurich
2009 KUNST & WOHNEN, a project about living around art, Zurich
2008 GOODNIGHT MY DAY, Gallery Sonjart, Rapperswil
2008 LET'S DANCE, Sunami Artspace Zurich
2006 PARADISE HOME, White Space, Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Zurich

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 ANYWHERE BUT HERE, Trace Art Space, Zurich
2007 SPY CAM, Display Schinzenhof, cultural promotion of Zurich
2007 SZENENWECHSEL, Group exhibition at Alte Papierfabrik, Cultural fonds Horgen
2006 TRAVEL & STYLE, Works around the displays of Zurich, OLAV art association
2006 GOOD & EVIL, Uptown Artspace, Zurich

PROJECTS

- 2009/10 IRBIS -09°, Temporary Ice Gallery, Samedan (next to St. Moritz) (CH)
Kunstruiert association, www.kunstruiert.com

PRESS

- Seesicht, Zurich Magazine > Is it real? Soloexhibition, Sonjart Gallery
Tagesanzeiger, Newspaper > Good night my day, Soloexhibition, Sonjart Gallery
Zurichseezeitung, Newspaper > Szenenwechsel, Groupexhibition
20 Minutes, Newspaper Zurich > Paradise Home, Soloexhibition, White Space Zurich

PUBLICATIONS

- Between Zurich and imagination, Limited edition booklet,
made for the Paradise Home 2006 exhibition. Edition Visualfarm.

PERSONAL CONTACT

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WRITE TO ME hello@jaybower.ch

PARADISE HOME

Sun, beach and the sea. Once a year a break. Flying to exotic destinations has become cheaper and cheaper. Often within sight of the idyllic beaches you can see the slums. The concerned tourist doesn't avoid them and takes a guided tour through the Favelas, pets children like animals in the zoo, poses for holiday pictures in front of the barracks. Jay Bower doesn't paint as dramatically as mentioned above; nevertheless his paintings „Skor in Brazil“, „Paradise Home“ and „Tokyo in Brazil“ make the observer feel discrepant. At the first sight the paintings look like holiday-portraits, but on second sight it looks different. A man – himself an asian – imitates not very subtly an asian. Another man with sunglasses radiates the perfect coolness as you find it in Zurich. Behind the people, the artist indicates empty streets. That much for the imaginary or false paradise.

Jay Bower finds the real one outside his own door in Zurich. When he still used to spray, the city was his canvas; now the city has moved on the canvas. The public space still leaves its mark on Bowers paintings. „I see something, what you don't see!“ could be Bowers motto. He focuses on things people consider usually as ugly: urbane concrete jungles, motorways, streets, crossings, parking lots. Indeed the streets on Bowers pictures seemed to be quiet and empty. Or calm before the storm.

Imagine you go home early in the morning after a night of drinking. Have you ever felt the sensation of being alone in a industrial area? They are rare these moments, that is why they seem so surreal. The garish pink wick dominates the pictures „Technopark 1 and 2“ and „Hardbrücke“ seems all of a sudden not to be kitschy anymore, but excessive. Driving is exhausting. Sitting next to the driver or at the back falling asleep after a long journey; the landscape passes by. The window of the car is the frame of your view. You can't separate dream from reality anymore.

The surrounding is composed of little pieces while you are winking. „Enge“, „Autobahn“, „Ausfahrt“ and „The lost taxi“ show trips through the dusk. The vanishing light steals the details of the landscape, it leaves an undefined expanse. The contrast between the bright sky and the almost black landscape reminds you of the „nuit américaine“ – the dark lense fakes the night. Bower plays with the contrast between surreal effects and harsh reality of his subjects. The artist shows us moments that we have all experienced before. Fractions of a second when we doubt our perception. There are no pink cities, but we saw them.

Text: Urs Küenzi, www.substitut-berlin.ch

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THIS A DIFFERENT REALITY ?

“Nothing is as it seems at first sight“ could be the maxim of creating art of Jay Bower, Zurich artist. “In the artistic debate, it's the peep behind the scenes of life that fascinates me. Not only big stories change the world. In fact, everything is constantly being changed by little episodes that happen every day, every hour, every second. These moments I want to capture in my art.”

Jay Bower likes playing with the beholder's curiosity. With a lot of sensitiveness, he illuminates intermediate worlds and illusions. He scratches surfaces, opens visions lying underneath familiarities and thus he confers a dense atmosphere and beauty to supposedly unimpressive things like streets or industry districts. Daily life appears detached of its real context. The motives appearing superficial – but only at first sight – are often inserted into surreal worlds of colours. “Where is the borderline between fiction and reality? If there is one, how can we be sure about it? What if our perceptions tell a truth, but our sight does not? It has always been my desire, to research and discover new concepts, untouched by cognition. What if a single thought could be projected, how would it be appearing ? By questioning and researching answers among this motif, I found a way of constructing results through my perceptions.”

Where does reality end and where does fiction start ? Is there a borderline or do both build a unit? To understand the basic meaning of these questions, it is worth to have a glimpse of your inner universe, to dig away certain things, to be able of receiving hidden parts deep inside yourself, the society and surrounding environments. Thankfully, reality can always be constructed in a new way through art. Everything fascinates me in my everyday life, I take out of its context exciting elements, while I let others as they are, and later put them together in a new way. In this way, the matter of things loses its sometimes destructing abstractism and conclusiveness. The result of that way of seeing the world can best be described as „constructed stills“. I want to create cinematic scenes, that seem surreal but within reach. The viewer should get the impression to enter a still life and be able to change certain objects with his thoughts.

Top transforms to bottom, emptiness fills itself up with new content, solid things lose their outlines and spread in every direction, powered by a soundless big bang. It's about stills, figures frozen in its motions and cleared away, as if its atoms wouldn't obey to any physical law - they then drift about to open up new perspectives to things that seemed to be everyday objects. Reality gets fragmented and put together in different ways, in cycles, without a beginning and without an ending.

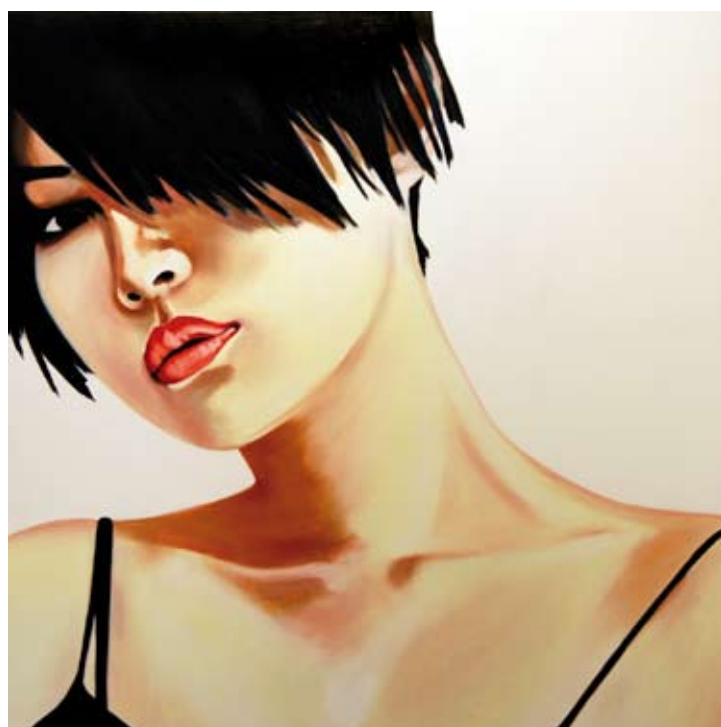
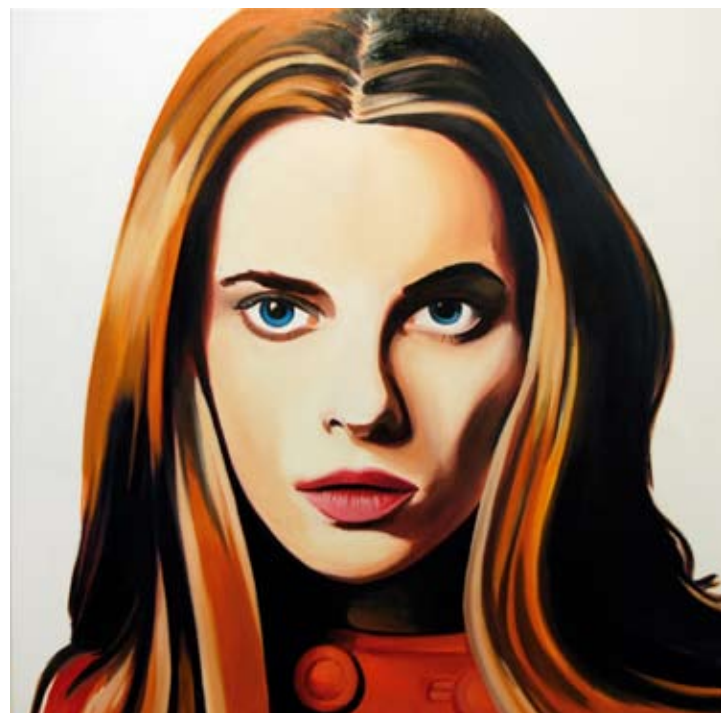
Text: Monica Bettschen



She has a fever
2008, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm



Laurie (she wants it all)
2007, Acrylic on canvas, 100x100cm



Julia
2007, Oil on canvas, 100x100cm

Ming
2007, Oil on canvas, 100x100cm



Natalia
2007, Acrylic on canvas, 100x100cm



True love
2008, Oil on canvas, 160x120cm



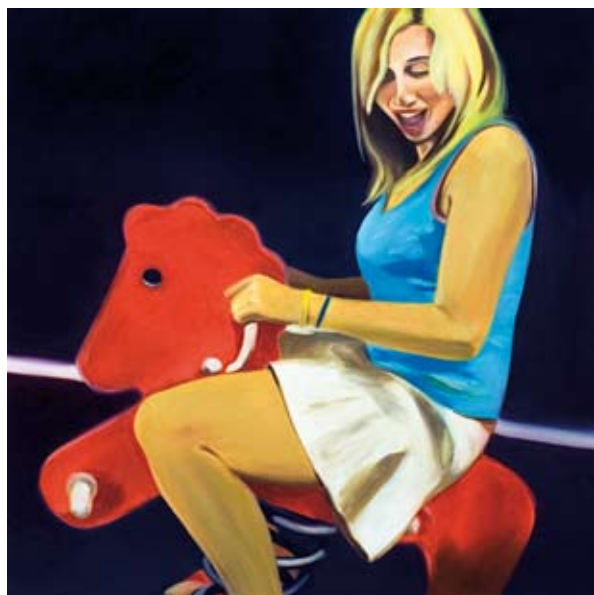
Hidden Django
2009, Oil on paper, 38x45cm



Towards unknown
2009, Oil on paper, 42x30cm



Hidden Pascal
2009, Oil on paper, 38x45cm

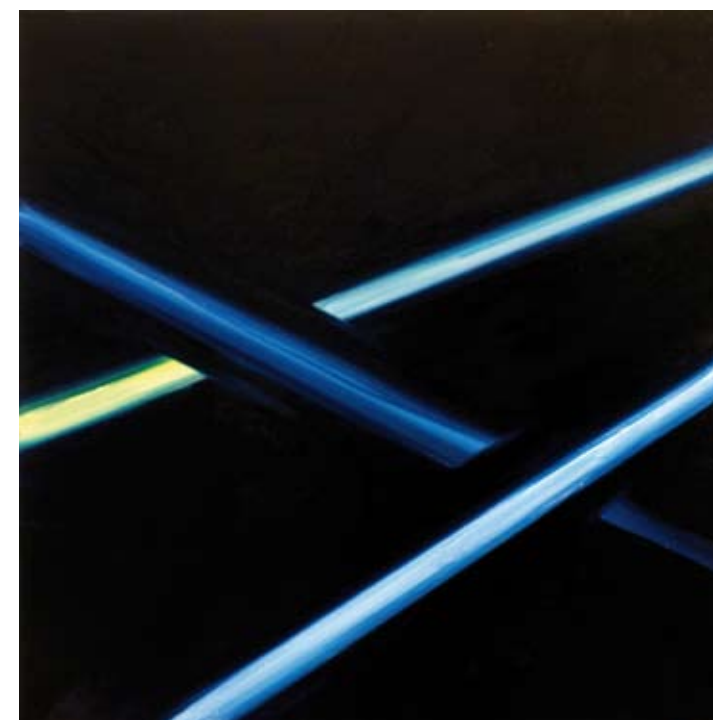


My ride
2008, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm

Where i am at
2009, Oil on paper, 38x45cm



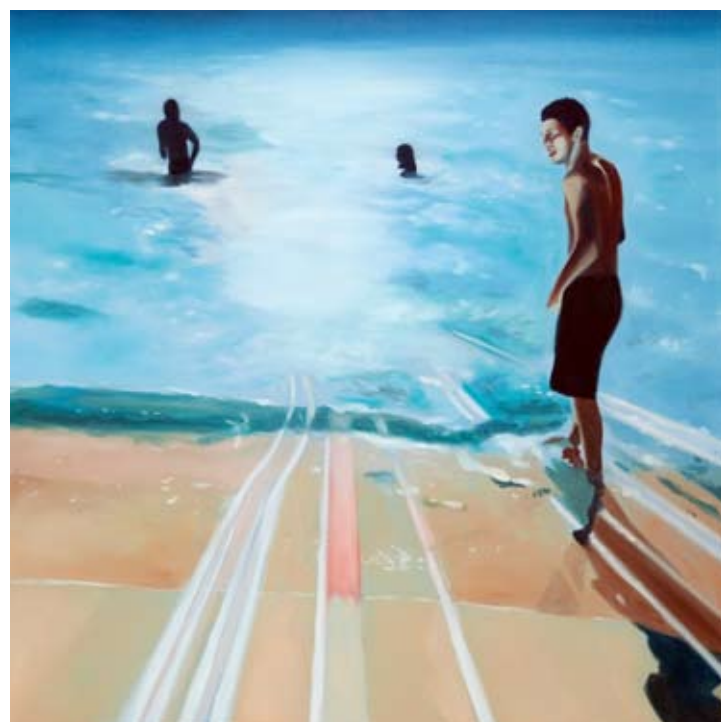
Liforce (2)
2008, Oil on canvas, 50x50cm



Liforce (1)
2008, Oil on canvas, 50x50cm



Lakepool
2010, Oil on canvas, 80x80cm



The trace
2010, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm



Night, world
2008, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm



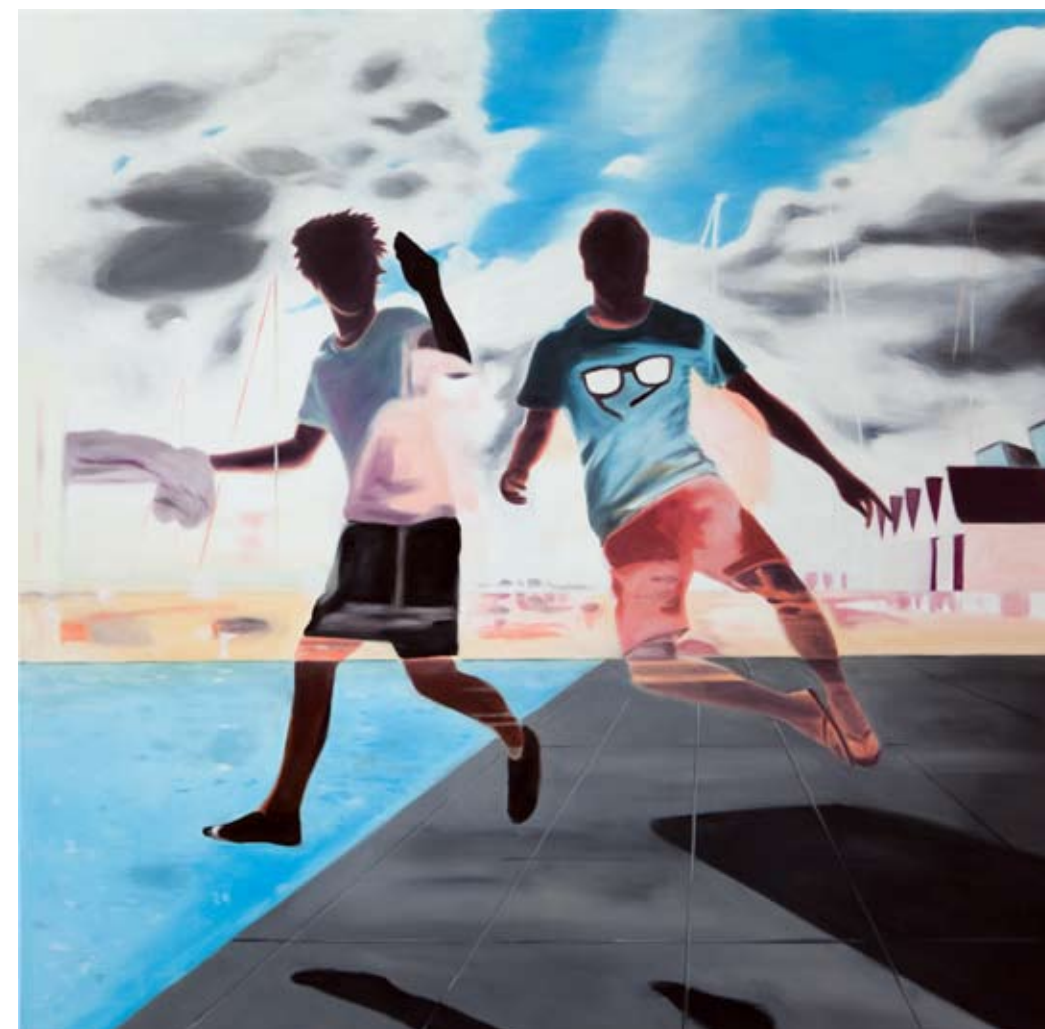
I saw her before she did
2005, Oil on canvas, 150x150cm



Rising and falling
2008, Acrylic on canvas, 120x160cm



Wherever you go (Nr.5)
2010, Oil on canvas, 80x80cm



Victory
2010, Oil on canvas, 100x100cm



Wherever you go (Nr.4)
2010, Oil on canvas, 100x70cm



The second i knew
2010, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm



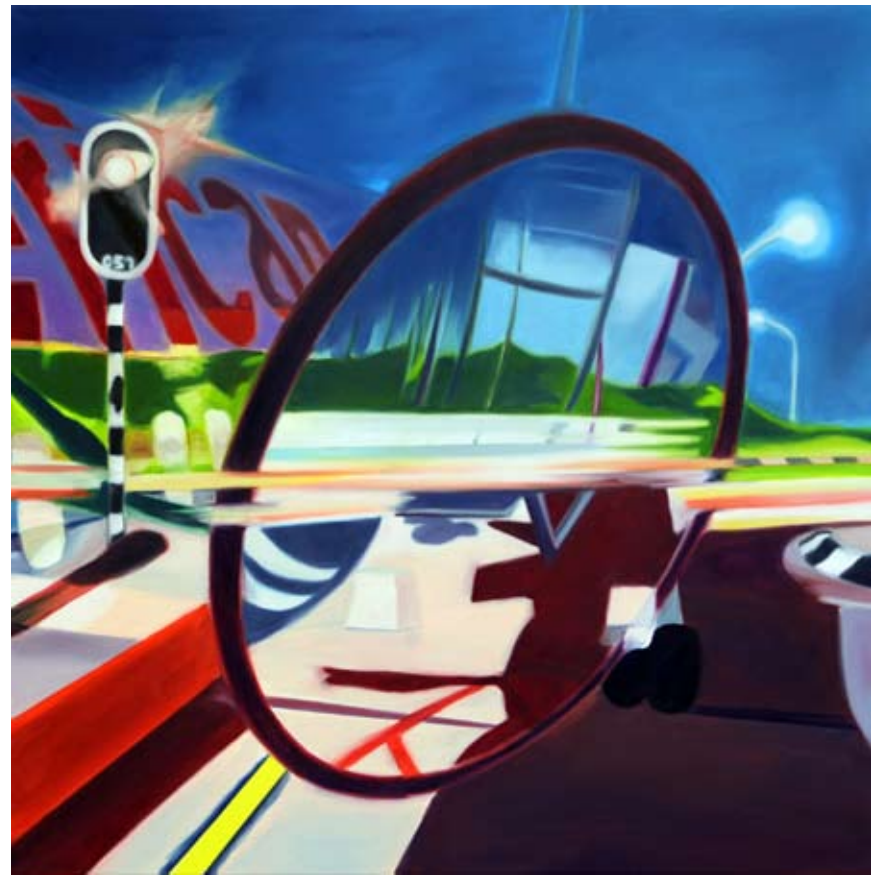
Wherever you go (Nr.2)
2010, Oil on canvas, 100x100cm



The traveller
2010, Oil on canvas, 90xcm



To know
2010, Oil on canvas, 70x70cm



She is in her mood
2009, Oil on canvas, 80x60cm



She is in her mood
2009, Oil on canvas, 80x60cm



Leblon beach
2007, Oil on canvas, 100x100cm



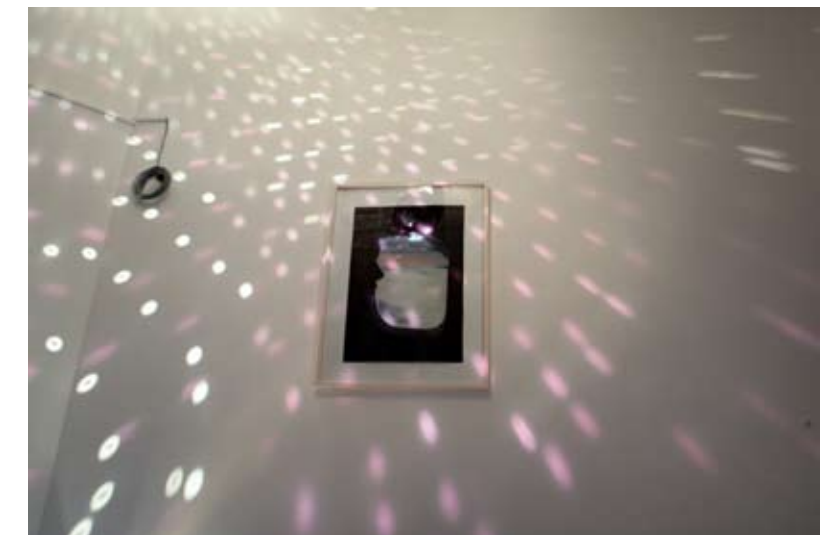
Listen to what i think
2004, Acrylic on canvas, 100x100cm



Skor in Brazil, 2006
Acrylic on canvas, 150x150cm



Paradise home, 2006
Acrylic on canvas, 150x150cm



Szenenwechsel, Groupexhibition 2008
Installation view

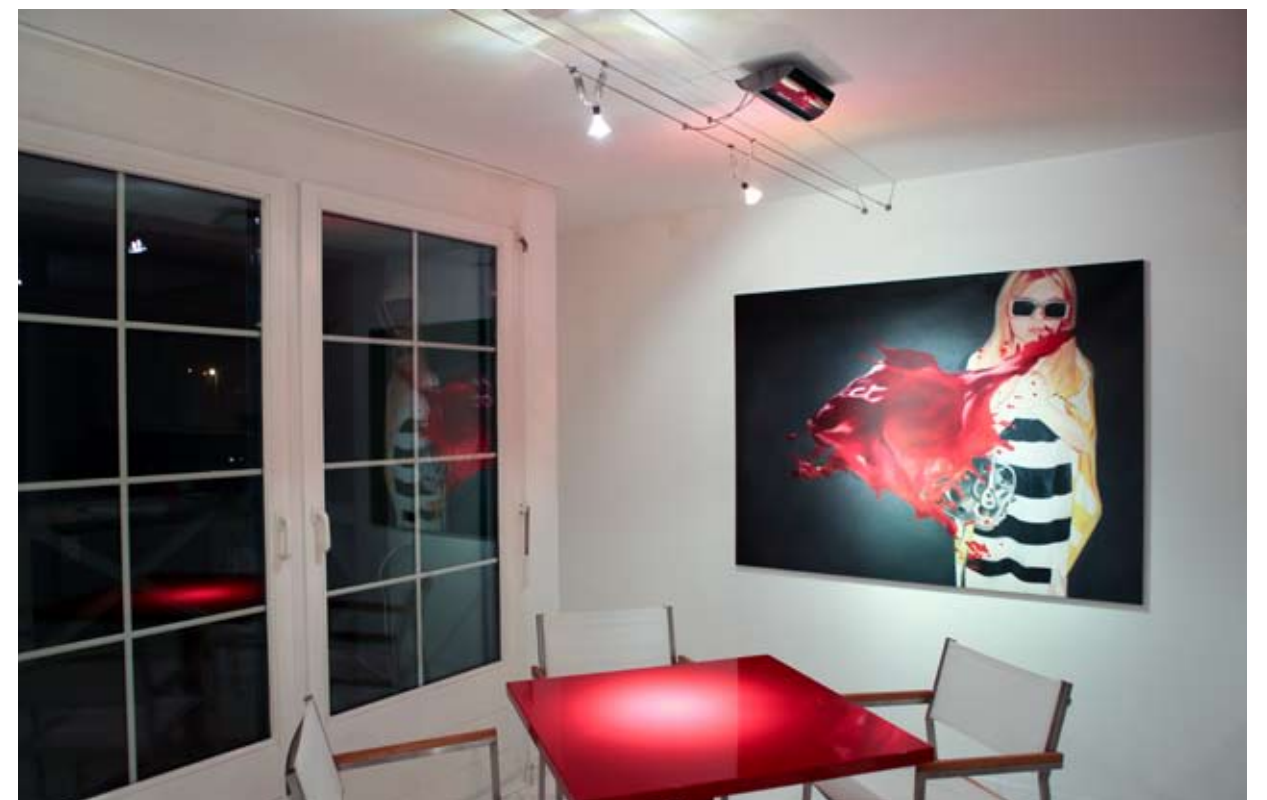
Home Sweet Home Exhibition, 2010
Installation views



Is it real? Exhibition 2010
Installation view



Paradise Home Exhibition 2006
Installation view



Home Sweet Home Exhibition, 2010
Installation view