

DONALD BAECHLER

NEW SCULPTURES AND RELATED WORKS

SALZBURG VILLA KAST

30 Aug 2006 - 30 Sep 2006



We take pleasure in announcing a solo exhibition by the American artist Donald Baechler, consisting of sculptures and black-and-white gouaches and collages, some monumental, created in recent months.

"I'm interested in discreet and very mute objects, and I've never really been interested in narrative or psychology or these things which many people read into my paintings and probably into the sculptures.", Baechler remarked recently about his work, which has been exhibited worldwide since the early 1980s.

Some twenty years ago, in an effort to re-learn drawing, Baechler set about inventing a naïve vocabulary of lines and forms. It was geared - paraphrasing the work of Jean Dubuffet - to the world of images used by children, naïve artists and the mentally ill. "So when I started doing sculptures, about ten years ago, I was looking again for a way to make forms as if I'd never made sculpture before. So I wanted to forget about armatures and about the proper way of using clay and the proper way of doing anything, and started just squeezing things with my hands, making shapes.", Baechler explained in an interview in 2004.

In their complex structure, the surfaces of Baechler's sculptures reflect the craft involved in kneading and forming. His treatment of the objects with different-coloured patinas and wax polishes gives the surfaces a painted appearance. The reference to his drawings and paintings is manifest in the directness with which he transcribes the various motifs into the third dimension; this will be clearly demonstrated in our exhibition. His motifs are to be found first of all in drawings, then in collages and gouaches, becoming sculptural only in their third stage.

Donald Baechler was born in Hartford (Connecticut) in 1956. He studied from 1974 until 1977 at the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, 1977/78 at Cooper Union, New York City, and 1978/79 at the Hochschule für bildende Künste (Städelschule) in Frankfurt am Main. He taught at the Salzburg Summer Academy in 2004.

Donald Baechler lives and works in New York. His sculptures and paintings are represented in many public and private collections, such as the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and Guggenheim-Museum (all in New York), in the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.