

CASEY KAPLAN

525 WEST 21ST STREET
NEW YORK NY 10011
TEL +1 212 645 7335
FAX +1 212 645 7835
WWW.CASEYKAPLANGALLERY.COM
INFO@CASEYKAPLANGALLERY.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHANNES WOHNSEIFER: "NEW ALPHABET"

OPENING: FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 6-8PM
EXHIBITION DATES: JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 25, 2006
GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10-6PM

Casey Kaplan is pleased to announce the second solo exhibition in New York of the Cologne-based artist Johannes Wohnseifer. In new paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and video, Wohnseifer combines and abstracts a matrix of references in the interest of exploring the aesthetics of politics, war, and the communication of messages.

The title of the show, "New Alphabet" refers directly to the typeface created by Dutch designer Wim Crouwel in 1967. At a time when electronic typesetting was emerging, New Alphabet was developed to be easily read on computers. Crouwel based the highly abstract font on the dot-matrix system and incorporated it into his exhibition poster and catalogue designs for the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Using Crouwel's aesthetic principles as a starting point, Wohnseifer strategically created a body of work that forms new associations in a meeting of histories, places, and personal influences. The artworks are inspired by and reference such historical figures as the civil rights leader Malcolm X, Horst Mahler, (an original member of the 1970's Germany terrorist group Red Army Faction, who later became a Neo-Nazi), film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and rapper Snoop Dogg.

Wohnseifer uses images of helicopters, stealth fighters, armored vehicles, and camouflage to pictorially represent contemporary depictions of war. In a series of computer "Spam" paintings, camouflage schemes obscure and transform appropriated text.

Collectively, Johannes Wohnseifer's artworks highlight the malleable nature of visual perception where ideas and symbols quickly shift meaning and new relationships are formed.

Since his last New York exhibition, Johannes Wohnseifer has participated in shows including "Regarding Terror: The RAF-Exhibition," Kunst-Werke Berlin, Germany and "The Triumph of Painting: Part 3," The Saatchi Gallery, London, England. He has also exhibited at: Commes des Garçons Guerrilla Store, Köln, Germany; Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan; ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; Ausstellungshalle, Münster, Germany; and Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany.

FOR FURTHER EXHIBITION INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE GALLERY.

NEXT GALLERY EXHIBITION: BRIAN JUNGEN MARCH 8 – APRIL 15, 2006

JEFF BURTON, NATHAN CARTER, MILES COOLIDGE, JASON DODGE, TRISHA DONNELLY, PAMELA FRASER, ANNA GASKELL, LIAM GILLICK, ANNIKA VON HAUSSWOLFF, CARSTEN HÖLLER, BRIAN JUNGEN, JONATHAN MONK, DIEGO PERRONE, JULIA SCHMIDT, SIMON STARLING, GABRIEL VORMSTEIN, JOHANNES WOHNSEIFER

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