

Press release

casual & abstract
Jean-Luc Manz

December 3, 2009 – January 15, 2010

at Galerie Susanna Kulli, Dienerstrasse 21, CH-8004 Zürich, Switzerland

Finissage: January 15, 2010, starting at 6 pm

Opening hours: Tue – Fri 1 pm – 6 pm, Sat 11 am – 4 pm

Galerie Susanna Kulli presents “**casual & abstract**,” an exhibition of works by the French-Swiss artist Jean-Luc Manz. Jean-Luc Manz was born in Neuchâtel in 1952 and lives and works in Lausanne.

Manz is an important representative of postmodern abstraction in Switzerland; with Armleder, Mosset, and others, he forms a generation of artists from French-speaking Switzerland who nonchalantly overcome all defined and delimited currents in the art of their time—viewers will recall the international “Neo-Geo” movement of 1986 as well as the exhibition “Peinture abstraite” in Geneva, curated by John Armleder.

The broad range of formal possibilities of the chessboard in the eye of the beholder, as shown in the current exhibition at the gallery, inspired not only Ernst Mach, one of the pioneers of Gestalt psychology. Kandinsky, Klee, Mondrian, and Palermo are examples of painters who engaged this visual figure.

Manz also shares Klee’s interest in Egypt, where the artist from western Switzerland spent extended periods of time between 1992 and 2002. “I was interested in imparting physical sensations that correspond to certain powerful impressions I received in Egypt,” Manz said in an interview with Lionel Bovier in 1996. www.sikart.ch

The “Casual paintings” (1996) reflect decorative motifs that are omnipresent in Cairo. The paintings playfully combine numerous squares, each built from two rectangles, to form a luminous carpet of primary colors.

“Virtually all geometric forms in Jean-Luc Manz are derived from his immediate everyday world. Such derivation is the decisive stimulus that leads Manz to lay out geometric forms, not the desire to place, into the ‘chaos of the world,’ a straight line, a circle, or a square as the signs of a new order.” (Paul Tanner, in *Jean-Luc Manz. “Do not walk outside of this area,”* exh. cat., Memory Cage Editions, Zürich, 1999)

We would be delighted to see you at the gallery, and we would like to invite you to join us for the **Finissage on January 15, 2010, starting at 6 pm**. The artist will be present.

Solo exhibitions (selection): 2008 *Jean Crotti, Jean-Luc Manz*, Galerie Susanna Kulli, Zurich; 2006 *Minna*, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne; 2002 *Jean Crotti et Jean-Luc Manz. Broderies et tapis*, Galerie Média, Neuenburg; 2001 *Jean Crotti, Jean-Luc Manz*, Centre PasquArt, Biel; 2000 *Jean Crotti, Jean-Luc Manz, Watercolors*, Cairo Berlin Art Gallery, Kairo; **Group exhibitions** (selection): 2008 *Abstraction étendue – une scène romande et ses connexions*, L’espace de l’Art Concret, Mouans-Sartoux (France); 2005 *Schweizer Druckgraphik 1980–2005*, Helmhaus Zürich (catalogue); 2004 *La lettre volée*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dole (France) (catalogue); 2002 *Minimalism and After*, Daimler Kunst Sammlung, Berlin (catalogue); **Awards** (selection): 2004 fellowship (Arts plastiques) from the Canton of Vaud; 2001 fellowship from Fondation Leenaards; 1992 Prix des jeunes créateurs, Fondation vaudoise pour la promotion et la création artistiques; 1990 fellowship from Fondation Irène Reymond; **Residences in Egypt**: 1992–2002 multiple extended stays in Cairo; 1992 Shabramant (near Cairo), three months studio residency, Conference of Swiss Cities on Cultural Issues (KSK), City of Lausanne.