

# KÜNSTLERHAUS STUTT GART

**Susanne Kriemann: Ashes and broken brickwork of a logical theory**  
**Oscar Tuazon: Against Nature**

Opening: Friday, December 11, 2009, 7pm  
Exhibition: December 12, 2009 – February 7, 2010

Künstlerhaus Stuttgart presents two solo exhibitions of Susanne Kriemann and Oscar Tuazon. Both artists, in different ways, deal with the social function of architecture. Each artist has created a new work for the exhibition directly related to specific aspects of the architectural history of Stuttgart.

## **Susanne Kriemann: Ashes and broken brickwork of a logical theory**

Susanne Kriemann's work "Ashes and broken brickwork of a logical theory" reflects her interest in historical moments, in which utopian models become visible and then collapse. What often remain from such departures are, since the onset of Modernism, photographic or filmic images. In her work, shown for the first time at Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Susanne Kriemann combines her own photographs with archive material. In a series of photos and a slide installation, she connects the reception history of the modernist model estate Weissenhofsiedlung (1927) in Stuttgart with an enormous archaeological site in Syria to associatively examine the relationship of present and past. The exhibition of Susanne Kriemann is a co-production with the exhibition space Kiosk in Gent, where it will be on display in early 2010. At the end of the exhibition, an artist book will be published.

In her photographic projects, Susanne Kriemann follows a research-oriented approach. Starting from observations usually related to the location of the exhibition, the projects follow specific motives through historical layers and over geographical or social domains. The subject of photography plays a significant role in the artist's work. Not only a tool for making visible, the images themselves are always simultaneously scrutinized by the artist. Through references to the history of photography, the way that images are used to construct our view of the world becomes a central theme of her work.

An important figure in the exhibition in Stuttgart is Agatha Christie, who in addition to her work as a detective story author acted as photographer during the archaeological excursions she went on with her husband, Max Mallowan. Her experiences in the Middle East then served as inspiration for many of her novels, such as "Murder on the Orient Express". Conversely, the Weissenhofsiedlung, which still exists today, has a sort of parallel existence within architectural history as a series of photographs that are unlike the building complex's current appearance.

Susanne Kriemann (\*1972) studied at the Kunstakademie in Stuttgart and at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris, she lives in Rotterdam and Berlin. Recently she had solo exhibitions at the Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, in the Galerie Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam and at Uqbar Berlin (all 2009). Her work was also included in group exhibitions at the Ursula Blickle Stiftung in Kraichtal, in "Berlin89/09" at the Berlinische Galerie, at the Fotomuseum Rotterdam, and she participated in the 5th Berlin Biennial. In 2009, a monograph "One Time One Million" was published by Roma Publications, Amsterdam.

## Oscar Tuazon: Against Nature

Oscar Tuazon has been working for some years on sculptures that clearly reference the formal language of architecture. While earlier works approached functional aspects of architecture, recent works focus on the materiality of utilized substances. Building materials like cement, wood, glass and metal are often used against their actual purpose, and thereby develop new aesthetical qualities and implications. An important method of the artist is to examine examples of architecture that are developed or built directly by its users. He is inspired by the ingenuity of spontaneous settlements and improvised usage of building materials to create habitats.

For the exhibition "Against Nature" at Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Oscar Tuazon has realized a new, extensive work, related to research on the legendary "Institut für Leichte Flächentragwerke" (IL) at the University of Stuttgart and the "Research Laboratory for Experimental Building" in Kassel. The IL was founded in 1964 by Frei Otto and developed experimental structures in collaboration with biologists, medical doctors, and paleontologists that were based on pneumatic and biological principles of construction. Otto's most known building project is the rooftop of the Olympic Stadium in Munich, completed in 1972. The institute in Kassel is still run today by Frei Otto's former colleague Gernot Minke.

In his installation, Oscar Tuazon does not only refer to formal aspects of architecture, but is interested in the radicality of a life model associated with such architectural vision, reflecting practice that is hermetic or in constant motion. Out of a hanging steel construction, raw cement, plastic sheets, and tires, Oscar Tuazon creates an expansive sculpture, which realigns the exhibition space and examines the quality of architecture to create atmospheres. In the installation, other works are integrated which can be interpreted as scaled models, oscillating between actual and depicted architecture. The title of the exhibition refers to the English translation of Joris-Karl Huysman's novel "À rebours" (1884), which describes the life of a young aesthete, who increasingly withdraws completely into an artificial world.

Oscar Tuazon (\*1975) lives and works in Paris. In the past years, he has participated in numerous international exhibitions. Recently he had solo shows at the Centre international d'art et du paysage, Ile de Vassiviere, Balice Hertling Gallery in Paris, Standard, Oslo (2009), Seattle Art Museum (2008) and Palais de Tokyo Paris (2007). Next year he will have a solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern. In addition to his work as an artist, Oscar Tuazon is co-organizing the exhibition space "Castillo/Corrales" in Paris as well as the bookshop "Section 7 Books", which also serves as a meeting point for artists. "Against Nature" is Oscar Tuazon's first solo exhibition in Germany.

The exhibition by Oscar Tuazon is supported by the Institut Français and CULTURESFRANCE.

**kiosk**

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Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Reuchlinstr. 4b, 70178 Stuttgart  
Öffnungszeiten: Mi. – So. 15 - 19 Uhr

Künstlerhaus Stuttgart is closed over the holidays during the following dates:  
December 24 - 26, December 31, January 1, January 6

Press: Marlene Laube, ml@kuenstlerhaus.de, phone: +49 (711) 617652

