

Press release

Berlin, March 31, 2010

Silk Piece III

Jens Risch

smallspace is pleased to present *Silk Piece III* by Jens Risch. This is the first time that the artwork will be shown to the public. The opening of the exhibition will take place on Friday, 23 April, from 6 pm at Schliemannstrasse 4, 10437 Berlin, Germany.

Jens Risch knotted a 900m long silk thread until it was impossible to add another knot. He strung knot after knot side-by-side and once the thread was completely knotted through, he placed a second row of knots on top of the first. After the six-fold knotting of the twine, Risch has created a unique work of art with a complex organic structure, which exerts a strong fascination over the viewer. This creative process took place over a period of years, during which Risch kept count of his exact working hours. In total he put 1395 hours into the creation of this fist-sized silk piece.

The multi-faceted nature of Jens Risch's creation is difficult to grasp at first glance. It is a kind of art that takes time: time in its formation, time for contemplation and finally time for the realization that behind this simple idea lies a revolutionary concept. Risch distances himself completely from the industrial notions of productivity and optimization which many artists have made the basis of their studio work today. Risch contrasts this desire for economic efficiency with a meditative idea of deceptive simplicity. He knots a twine over several years and the emerging form is not reproducible as such, every knot is different and the outcome is unforeseeable and absolutely unique.

Jens Risch's conceptual work stands in the tradition of sculpting. He creates new forms with his hands but without adding material or taking it away. Risch knots. And with every knot the thread shortens and changes, with every knot the complexity and diversity of the piece increases. And despite this fascinating creative process, the resulting work does not require any explanations. Its richness of detail and unusual beauty stands for themselves.

Silk Piece III differs from the other Silk Pieces by the artist in length and color. It is his first two-colored piece. Risch used 800 meters of white and 100 meters of black thread. *Silk Piece I* and *II* (each consisting of 1000 meters of thread) are solely white.

Silk Piece I is part of the collection of the *Museum of Modern Art in Frankfurt am Main* (MMK). A publication on *Silk Piece II* was published by the publishing house *Walther König* at the beginning of this year.

All three pieces will be exhibited at the *Palazzo Strozzi* in Florence, Italy as part of the exhibition „As soon as possible. Time and Social Acceleration“, opening on May 14.

Jens Risch was born in 1973 in Rudolstadt, Eastern Germany. He studied at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach and the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städelschule Frankfurt/Main. Risch is a Meisterschüler (Master student) of Prof. Thomas Bayrle. He has been living and working in Berlin since 2001.

Seidenstück III

Jens Risch

Location: smallspace, Schliemannstrasse 4, 10437 Berlin

Dates of the exhibition: Saturday April 24 till Sunday May 9 2010.

Opening hours: Friday till Sunday 11 AM to 7 PM,

Wednesday and Thursday 6 PM to 8 PM

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