

## PRESS RELEASE

### **JOHN M ARMLEDER – Paint happens**

June 1 –July 25, 2008

'As Maurice Denis suggested in 1890, remember that before a painting is a war-horse, a nude woman or some story or other, it is essentially a flat surface covered in colors assembled in a certain order.'

By way of updating this statement, and to describe John Armleder's recent work, we should add that the forms do not necessarily have to be arranged in a certain order, the colors are often 'just as good as they are in the pot', and the story must not be scorned.

The exhibition Armleder is currently staging at the Andrea Caratsch Gallery brings together some twenty new works: drip paintings and geometric pictures are attached to murals depicting any number of ready-made subjects such as a circular saw, a prototypical representation of an extraterrestrial being, the outline of an egg or stylized cocktail glasses.

Playing on the styles of formalized and heroic painting as well as that of decorative 'patterns', John Armleder's installation creates an illusion: murals and paintings superimpose their medial and decorative functions, while the subjects seem to migrate from one surface to another. Everything takes place as if the expulsion of the original meaning of the motifs used in the murals has a paradoxical equivalent in the voiding of the effort of inventing the forms painted on canvas. As is his custom, the artist hopes to conjure up this 'vast maelstrom' in which value systems are swept away and hierarchical criteria collapse while the mainstays of the 'single thought' crumble.

The artist once offered visitors to this gallery the 'instant replay' (to use a televisual term) of a 'Brushstroke' by Roy Lichtenstein in the form of a mural, in some way replacing 'the original' hung in the previous exhibition by its sign repeated on the same wall; now - six years later - he is proposing to re-use an element borrowed from Giorgio de Chirico's painting *I Due Soli* on the selfsame picture-rail which it occupied a short while ago. As the artist emphasizes, 'paint happens' ...

The gallery is open from Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.