

GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESS RELEASE

GEORGE CONDO – THE LOST CIVILIZATION

May 21 – July 30, 2010

Galerie Andrea Caratsch is presenting from May 21 to July 30, 2010 an exhibition of sculptures and silkscreens by the American artist George Condo.

The group of nine sculptures collectively titled "The Lost Civilization" have been modelled in clay and cast in bronze in 2008. All works have been patinated by the artist and are cast in an edition of four each with different finishes. The presented group has a white patina, giving the feeling of ancient sculptures recently recovered from the ground. The group consists of six heads and three large sculptures (the Birth, Triumph and Death of Insanity).

Asked about these works, the artist replied: "The *Triumph of Insanity* celebrates the madness of mankind. In searching for today's mythology, one has to retain a certain respect for Bacchus. Then, in perfect order, the layers of meaning will become clear as pure sunlight."

The six heads bear titles such as "The Renegade", "The Minotaur", or "The Greek Myth" and refer to a long lost civilization. Traveling through time before the Greeks and Egyptians, there could have been a race of humanity that embodied all of the characteristics of what we call today "Contemporary Art".

To quote the artist on these works: "What is 'lost'? Is it something that was once there and never found again, or is it something that is still present but without definition? Perhaps this definition of 'lost' could be applied to the sculptures and their references to ancient and modern art. By applying such a terminology to a body of sculpture (which in itself speaks of not a physical body but an imaginary body relating to the physicality of humanity as it once could have been) the art has new meaning."

„The Lost Civilization" sculptures are complemented by a group of five silkscreen paintings done in 1998 and related to a similar subject. In these works, the artist appropriates characters from popular television series of the '60s and '70s that he combines with renaissance paintings, modern art formats and Warholesque techniques. They all are somehow part of a lost American civilization.

George Condo was born in 1957 in Concord, New Hampshire. He has been extensively involved with the investigation and challenging nature of portraiture. He introduced the language of the Old Masters into Contemporary Art and has influenced a younger generation with his artistic philosophy and painterly style. The artist has exhibited widely in both the United States and in Europe. He currently is included in the Whitney Biennale of American Art in New York and will have a large traveling exhibition starting in January of 2011 at The New Museum in New York and going to the Hayward Gallery in London, the Fondazione Re Rebaudengo in Turin and the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM
and on Saturday from 11 AM to 5 PM.