

Press Release

27 January 2010

me Collectors Room Berlin – Thomas Olbricht launches a new home for his collection, for collectors, and for all manner of discoveries in the vast, open field of art

Thomas Olbricht's exhibition-house concept »me Collectors Room Berlin« will be presenting the Olbricht Collection — one of the most comprehensive private collections in Europe — in alternating exhibitions from May 2010 onwards. The collection comprises works from the beginning of the 16th century through to most recent examples of contemporary art. The opening will take place in parallel to the Berlin Gallery Weekend [30.4. – 2.5.2010]; the first exhibition, »Passion Fruits«, curated by Wolfgang Schoppmann, will be on show until 12 September 2010.

For Thomas Olbricht, the decisive avowal of a subjective view of collecting is laconically summed up in the above title. Far from being shied away from, surprises and contradictions are positively welcomed, existential themes such as Eros, death, and transience making up the programmatic points of focus. Big names such as Master of Parrots, John Currin, Eric Fischl, Franz Gertsch, Cindy Sherman, or Marlene Dumas rub shoulders with new discoveries, such as Corinne von Lebusa, Tomoko Nagai, or Rachel Goodyear. Historical retrospectives of the timelessly existential are freely combined with perceptions of the current and the contemporary.

From artspace to Wunderkammer (Chamber of curiosities)

Bearing the title **me** Collectors Room Berlin, the Olbricht Collection will open the doors of its first permanent residence in Berlin at the end of April. Situated in Auguststraße, this venue will supplement the range of art activities in Berlin by providing a further, extremely attractive port of call: the new building represents one of the largest private initiatives of this kind in Berlin in terms of surface area. It is intended that, in future, different curators will develop and present their very own angle on the Olbricht Collection. The art collector, who lives in Essen, has been steadily assembling an array of internationally acclaimed artworks since 1985; the most recent acquisitions include sculptures by Barry X Ball and Johan Creten, photographs by Anett Stuth, paintings by Ouyang Chun and Martina Steckholzer and a video by Stephen Dean.

ME COLLECTORS ROOM BERLIN
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OPENING HOURS (FROM 1 MAY 2010)
TUE - SUN. NOON UNTIL 6PM

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A central focus of the collection is the permanent installation, »Wunderkammer Olbricht«. The »Kunstkammer objects« exhibited here from the Renaissance and Baroque periods transport the visitor back many centuries to different epochs in art history; in juxtaposition with the contemporary works, they have an extremely individual impact.

Open spaces for dialogue and debate

Situated adjacent to the KW Institute for Contemporary Art in the Auguststraße, central Berlin, the private residence-cum-exhibition space was designed by the architectural firm Düttmann + Kleymann in conjunction with Thomas Olbricht himself. The generous exhibition area measuring 1,300 sqm enables a floor arrangement that both encourages an immediate engagement with the art itself and provides a flexible environment for the visitor. A shop, a café, and a lounge area are accommodated over two floors behind the tall glass façade, granting the visitor an opportunity for dialogue, debate, and exchange about the works on display. Thomas Olbricht: »I am delighted that my pieces of art have found a central, open space at the heart of our capital where they can be visited by the majority of people.«

The date of the inaugural press conference will be posted in good time.

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