

THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

MEDIA RELEASE

Ulla von Brandenburg
'Neue Alte Welt'
2 April 2011 – 21 May 2011
Preview Saturday 2 April 2011 3-5pm
21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

The Common Guild is delighted to present the first ever presentation in Scotland of acclaimed German artist Ulla von Brandenburg.

Von Brandenburg uses a wide range of media including drawing, painting, installation, performance and film and draws upon many aspects of European cultural heritage, from ancient folklore to Romanticism and the idea of the 'Gesamtkunstwerk' (or total work of art). Artistic synthesis runs through her work, referencing a range of movements from the Renaissance to the Bauhaus.

Von Brandenburg's work also alludes to the shared history of story telling, from Greek tragedy to folk legend, and the archetypes depicted in them. Ranging from recurring literary characters to universal concepts such as family, forest, love, time, life and death, von Brandenburg uses familiar symbols to bring together the real and the unreal. As she explains "*I am very interested in artificiality, but absurdity interests me too.*"

Von Brandenburg's new exhibition at The Common Guild includes the remarkable 'Chorspiel' (2010) a three-part, opera-like film featuring five characters from three generations. Referencing Ingmar Bergman who often wrote his own screenplays, the film includes music written by the artist and sung by the characters among an extraneous choir. Brandenburg's films not only explore the use of narrative through performance, but the role of the narrator or conscience in the telling or enactment of a story. Accompanied in this exhibition by a group of objects, including fabric panels marked by extended exposure to the sun, the ability of her work to appear at once historic and futuristic is one of its distinguishing characteristics.

Ulla von Brandenburg's 'Neue Alte Welt' continues The Common Guild's commitment to introducing significant and compelling international artists to Scotland.

Exhibition open

Wednesday 12 - 5pm, Thursday & Friday 12 noon - 7 pm,
Saturday 12 noon - 5 pm and by appointment

For more information and images, please contact Kitty
Anderson:

T: +44 (0)141 428 3022

E: kitty@thecommonguild.org.uk

NOTES

1. **Ulla von Brandenburg** was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1974, she lives and works in Paris. Recent solo exhibitions of the artist's work include: K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany (2010); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2009); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2008); Stedilijk Museum, Amsterdam (2008); Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco (2008); Kunstverein, Düsseldorf (2007); Art: Concept, Paris (2007); Produzentengalerie, Hamburg (2007); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2006); and Kunsthalle Zürich (2006). Recent group exhibitions include 'Making Worlds', 53rd International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale (2009, Yokohama Triennale 2008; Biennale Jerusalem 2008; Performa 07, New York (2007); The World as a Stage, Tate Modern (2007), and Against Time, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2007).

2. **The Common Guild** is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. It was established in 2006 and presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions at our current premises as well non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations. We are committed to presenting artists' work in interesting and engaging ways and aim to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. The Common Guild is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving Flexible Funding from Creative Scotland

3. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which includes a selection of Ulla von Brandenburg's books and catalogues.