

PLAYSTATION@Galerie Fons Welters

27 May – 8 July 2006

Opening Saturday 27 May 17:00 – 19:00

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 13:00 – 18:00

Magali Reus

A Billion Balconies Facing the Sun

As you enter the gallery your gaze is arrested by a large, sparkling fountain (*High Spirits*, 2005). It is so beautiful, taut and sterile that it appears to be from another world. The smell of fresh orange juice and the appearance of the fountain down which the pure substance flows give you the impression that you have arrived in a paradise created by advertisers. We are presented with a utopian world, an illusion. Here is one of the religions of modern times, something on which to pin your hopes in an age that has banished beliefs: orange juice.

You may be a postmodernist, vegetarian, Zen Buddhist, or hedonist, or you may occasionally switch from one set of beliefs to another. You are the type that frequents bars or shops, you are a devotee of hiking or museums, or perhaps you are all of these at once. The identity of the ultra-modern citizen consists of choices, constructing your own life story, merging different lifestyles. Even traditions, which imply constraints and are simply 'there', are adapted to fit in with one's personal narrative: you can choose whether to celebrate Christmas or the characteristically Dutch feast of Sinterklaas (St Nicholas, 5 December) or you can simply decide to celebrate both.

Magali Reus (1981) is interested in the different lifestyles of modern society – the coexistence of the prevailing culture and the various sub-cultures. Reus studied at the famous Goldsmiths College in London, where she will be embarking on a master's degree course this September. In her first solo exhibition in Playstation she exposes the paranoid features of these lifestyles. She shows that however much we may believe we have shaken off the shackles of religion, we still feel the need to search for significance in things that are beyond our own experience.

Magali Reus constructs new narratives based on the symbols of different lifestyles. For instance, she filmed the windows of a university laboratory by the light of a full moon (*Full Moon at University of London*, 2004). The light and shadows suggest that something mysterious is being concocted inside. The symbolism of horror movies – night time, full moon, scientists, possibly making something dangerous – stimulates our imagination.

People have always attached great importance to stories. They are a source of comfort and hope. Do we perhaps need a certain paranoia to survive, so as not to have to bear the entire burden on our own shoulders? Happiness comes from creating the most beautiful story: that is our modern religion. And **Magali Reus** tells wonderful stories.

[Laura van Grinsven]

Selected news of the artists (selection):

Claire Harvey

STORE Gallery, London, UK

25.05-01.07

'Endless Summer', West London Projects, London

28.04-28.05

Job Koelewijn

'Everywhere', Busan Biennial 2006, Korea

16.09-25.11

Sven Kroner

'Iconica', Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid, Spain

02.06-07.09

Gabriel Lester

'Manifesta 6', Nicosia, Cyprus

23.09-17-12

'Everywhere', Busan Biennial 2006, Korea

16.09-25.11

'The Urban Condition', De Paviljoens, Almere

01.04-22.10

Matthew Monahan

'4th Berlin Biennial', Berlin, Germany

25.03-06.06

'Whitney Biennial 2006', New York, USA

untill 28.05

Maria Roosen

'Maria's, Maria's', Stedelijk Museum Schiedam (solo)

09.04-25.06

Daniel Roth

'The Well', Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe, Germany (solo)

13.05.-10.06

Monika Wiechowska

'Iconica', Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid, Spain

02.06-07.09

Next Exhibition:

Seb Koberstädt and Björn Dahlem

09.09-14.10