



## Press release

### Galerie Fons Welters

23 October – 20 November 2010

Opening: Saturday 23 October, 17:00 – 19:00

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

### Shana Moulton

#### *The Castle of Secrets*

Cynthia wanders aimlessly around her house, tries out health-giving creams and the latest household gadgets, reads self-help books and performs a gliding dance through her natural surroundings as if her life depended on it. The hypochondriac housewife Cynthia is the protagonist and *alter ego* of **Shana Moulton** (born in the USA, 1976) in the artist's ongoing series of performances and videos entitled *Whispering Pines*.

Cynthia seeks self-fulfilment, happiness and reflection by trying out endless self-help books and New Age rituals. In each video she again goes in search of solutions, combining her everyday concerns with a surrealistic aestheticism. In *Whispering Pines 11*, Cynthia suffers a crisis with her health, and rummaging through her medicine chest stumbles on a secret message that will lead her to a cosmic healer. The colourful and graphic setting in **Moulton's** video resembles a mysterious psychological space, which has a hypnotic effect partly thanks to its hymnic music. The narrative it evokes borders on absurdism when the separate – often household – objects are deployed in a ritualistic way. Full of New Age mantras, Cynthia strives once more to achieve her goal: unity of mind, body and spirit.

With *Whispering Pines* **Moulton** both creates a new world and criticises the existing world – that is, the central importance of the quest for self and its development, which is totally commercialised through the marketing of diverse lifestyles. Although Cynthia believes in the unity of the universe, she lives in a social vacuum. Her world is inward-looking. Even so, the viewer is involved in the work by the sculptural setting in which the videos are presented. For a brief moment we can be part of her quest, in which reality and her specific fantasy world end up, after all, almost converging.

[Laurie Cluitmans]