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‹St.Helena / Reichtümer
aus den Tiefen der Berge›
Florian Germann
28th of August —
2nd of October 2010

Opening reception
27th of August 6–8

Wednesday–Friday 12–6
Saturday 12–5



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ST. HELENA / Reichtuemer aus den Tiefen der Berge Florian Germann

Opening und Aktion (R.A.D.T.D.B.) 27. August 2010, 18 — 20
28. August — 2. Oktober 2010, Mi/Do/Fr 12 — 18, Sa 12 — 17
Galerie BolteLang, Limmatstrasse 214, 8005 Zürich



- A Austerlitz I. (Renault 21/Full)
- B Napoleon's Head/Athamor
- C Dante's Inferno II.
- D Napoleon's Wife (3 Negative's)
- E Austerlitz II.
(Renault 21/Fragment)
- F (Ansage) aus den Tiefen der Berge.
- G Ektoplasma Autosex Tavern 2010
- H 40 x 0.5.-
- I Epidemia
- J Reichtuemer aus den Tiefen der Berge

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Florian Germann — St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge
(St Helena / Riches from the depths of the mountains)
28th August — 2nd October 2010
Opening reception 27th August 6 – 8 pm

The first element from this new major body of work by Florian Germann (b. 1978, Thurgau) was revealed at the Kunsthaus Glarus in the exhibition *Performative Attitudes* earlier in 2010. Following previous investigations that encompassed TV detectives, motorbikes, werewolves and precious metals, these works are inspired by the figure of Napoleon I, interpreting the figure with a potent, if anomalous, logic.

In Glarus a pulley grasped the severed rear half of a Renault 21 towards the ceiling of the gallery; under the strain the car was pulled apart to like a monumental hinged shellfish. This connection is echoed by the car's colour and the installation's title, *Austerlitz I*, which includes the German word for oyster, Auster, embedded in the name of one of Napoleon's most famous victories. The film documentation of the action is projected within this BolteLang exhibition, alongside more 'riches from the depths of the mountains' as the title suggests. Two large sculptures dominate the gallery, one being *Napoleon's Head/Althamor*, a wooden form which within contains a mould for an alchemical althamor or perhaps cannonballs, while from without it resembles a doctor's bag or Napoleon's bicorn hat. The other principal sculpture *Ansage (aus den Tiefen der Berge)* (Announcement (from the depths of mountains)) uses the shell of an industrial chest freezer to amplify the noisy mumble of an army of frogs recorded in Europe's largest underground lake in Valais.

Germann himself has crafted each of the works in this exhibition, following quests made to sites that resonate with the intertwining narratives that engage him. These works bear out his ongoing fascination with the transformation of energy and material, and a recurring trope of positive and negative forms. Factual connections can be made between the diverse symbols united here, say between cannons plundered from Austerlitz and melted down to cast the victory column in Paris' Place Vendome, the slower formation process where silt builds up within alabaster caves and an oyster's similar process of pearl development. On the evening of the exhibition opening Germann will paint *The Poltergeist*, a map of his inspiration and ideas, in the window of the gallery. But as the work's ambiguous title suggests, to expect exact expository associations is naive; the power of Germann's works lies where forms and ideas cast shadows together. New legends emerge where their overlap is indistinguishable.

Aoife Rosenmeyer

For further information and images, please contact:
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Born 1978 in Thurgau, Switzerland.
Lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland.

EDUCATION

- 2004 - now BA Fine Art, ZHdK, Zurich, Switzerland
2000 - 2003 Restoration assistant, Winterthur, Switzerland
1996 - 2000 Apprenticeship stone sculptor, Switzerland
1995 - 1996 Apprenticeship cabinetmaker, Switzerland

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*, BolteLang, Zurich, Switzerland
Solo presentation, Art Brussels, with BolteLang, Brussels, Belgium
Napoleon I., San Keller's Kiosk, Kalkbreitestrasse 33, Zurich, Switzerland
2009 Nationale Suisse Art Prize, Liste 09 – The Young Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
Der Werwolf von Wien, BolteLang, Zurich Switzerland
2007 *Ballungcenter aller Energien I*, Amberg & Marti, Zurich, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *Gruppenausstellung der aktuellen KünstlerInnen der Stiftung BINZ39*, Stiftung BINZ39, Zurich, Switzerland
Performative Attitudes, curated by Sabine Rusterholz and Alexandra Blättler, Kunsthau Glarus, Switzerland
2009 *Thunders of Epiphany*, curated by Leander Schwazer, Galleria Lanserhaus, Appiano, Italy
Werk- und Atelierstipendien der Stadt Zürich 2009, Helmhaus, Zurich, Switzerland
2008 *Ballungcenter aller Energien II*, Nationale Suisse Art Prize, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, Switzerland
SIMONA, Schauwerk @ Viereck Palast, Appenzell, Switzerland
Summercamp, Galerie Haas & Fischer, Zurich, Switzerland
Diplomausstellung, ZhdK, Zurich, Switzerland
2007 *Ana, der Juwelier*, Kunsthalle Lanzarote, Spain
Ballungcenter aller Energien I., Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy
Vera Icon, Bad Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
2006 *i.r.u.l.a.n. aka. Spidernet am Reiterbrett*, Festival 'Go West', Toni Areal, Zurich, Switzerland
i.r.u.l.a.n., Altes Zeughaus, Herisau, Switzerland
Pollux, Sihlquai 125, Zurich, Switzerland
2005 *Symposium Contacts*, Vyzoky Skuze, Galerie Klenova, Czech Republic
Magazine presentation *Stella*, Centre Swiss Culturelle, Paris, France
Eat at Joes, participation in a project by artist group rsbmc, Stage Pavillon, Bern, Switzerland
2004 *Enduro/Tests and Trainings*, Ausstellungsraum Schalter, Basel, Switzerland
2001 *Wildwechsel*, Kunsthalle Wil, Switzerland
2000 *Go Johnny Go*, props for fictional film project, Studio Factory, Kreuzingen TG, Switzerland

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 *Mit Pfeilen schießen und Kunst beschädigen*, Daniel Morgenthaler, Tages Anzeiger, Donnerstag, 25 February
2009 *Florian Germann*, Karolina Dankow, Flash Art International, no. 267, July - September
Ein Sprungbrett für junge Kunst, Alexander Jegge, Aargauer Zeitung, 10. June
Sprungbrett für junge Kunst, Basellandschaftliche Zeitung, 9. June
Florian Germann, Dietrich Roeschmann, Kunstmagazin Regioartline, no. 7
Florian Germann – Bibliothekar des inneren Labyrinths, Tomas Germann, Kunstpreis der Nationale Suisse, April
Wer? Wolf!, Daniel Morgenthaler, Züritipp, No. 13, 26. March – 1. April
2008 *Kunstpreis 2009 für Florian Germann*, SF Tagesschau, 2. December
2004 *Enduro/Tests and Trainings*, catalogue, Ausstellungsraum Schalter, Basel, Switzerland

PRIZES AND RESIDENCIES

- 2009 Werkstipendium der Stadt Zürich, Switzerland
Residency, Binz, Zurich, Switzerland
Nationale Suisse Art Prize

COLLECTIONS

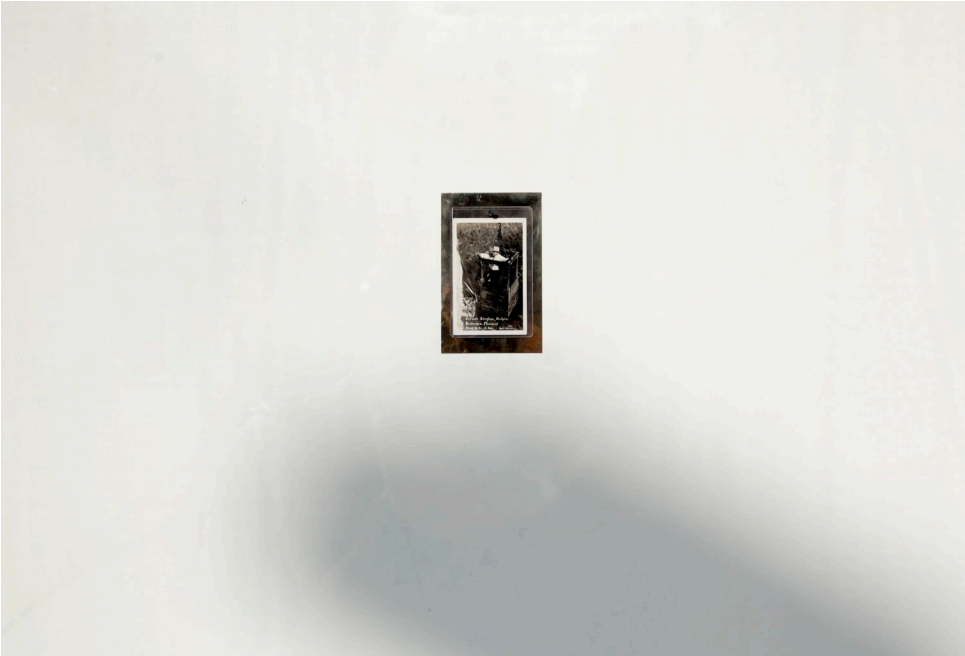
Burger Collection

Installation Views

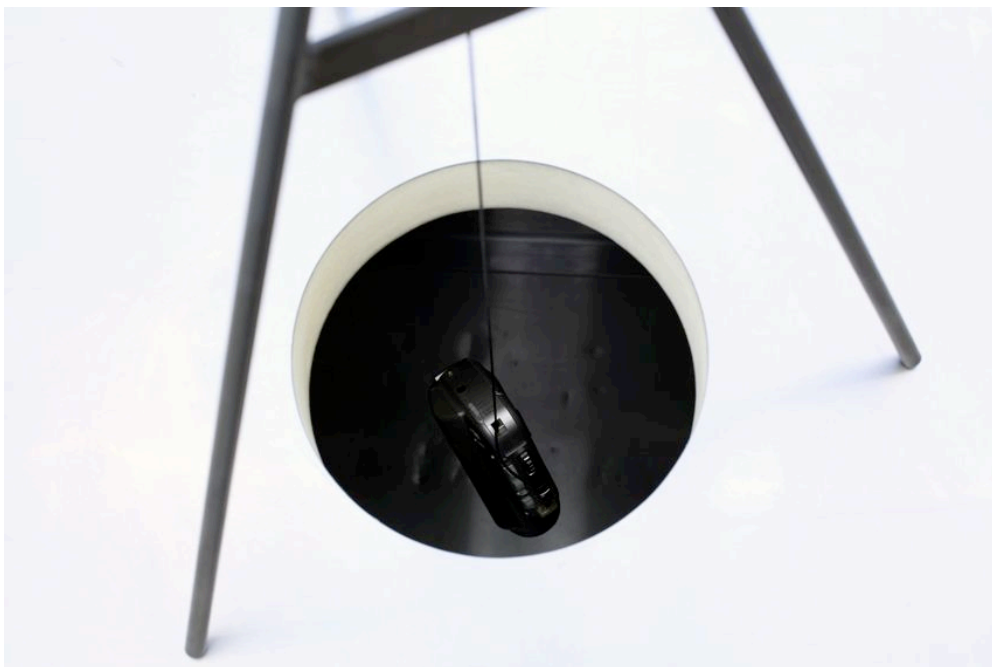
St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge

Florian Germann

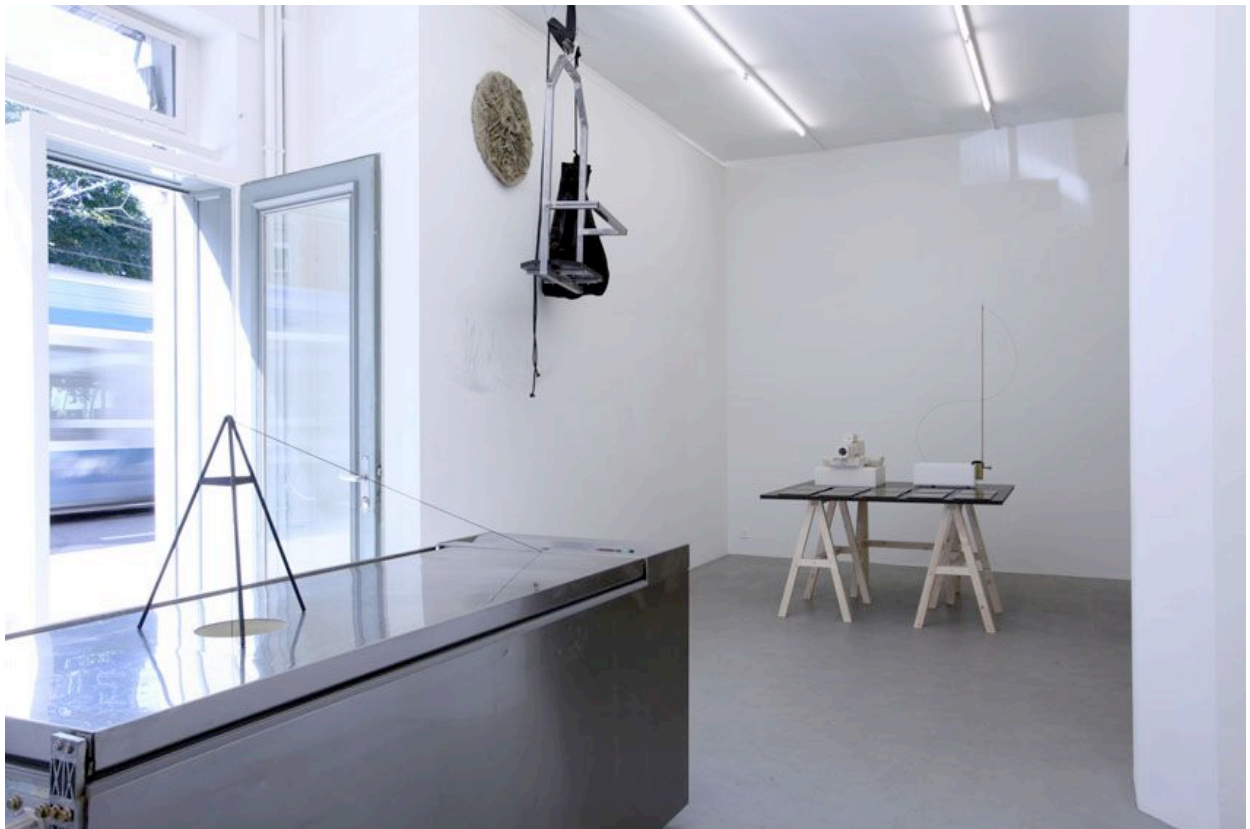
28 August – 9 October 2010



Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



Ansage (aus den Tiefen der Berge), 2010, chrome steel refrigerator, steel crane, hauling rope, dictaphone, microphone



Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



R.A.D.T.D.B., 2010, steel, plywood, nylon, clay

The action took place during the opening on August 27th 2010 and lasted approximately 3 hours.



R.A.D.T.D.B., 2010, steel, plywood, nylon, clay
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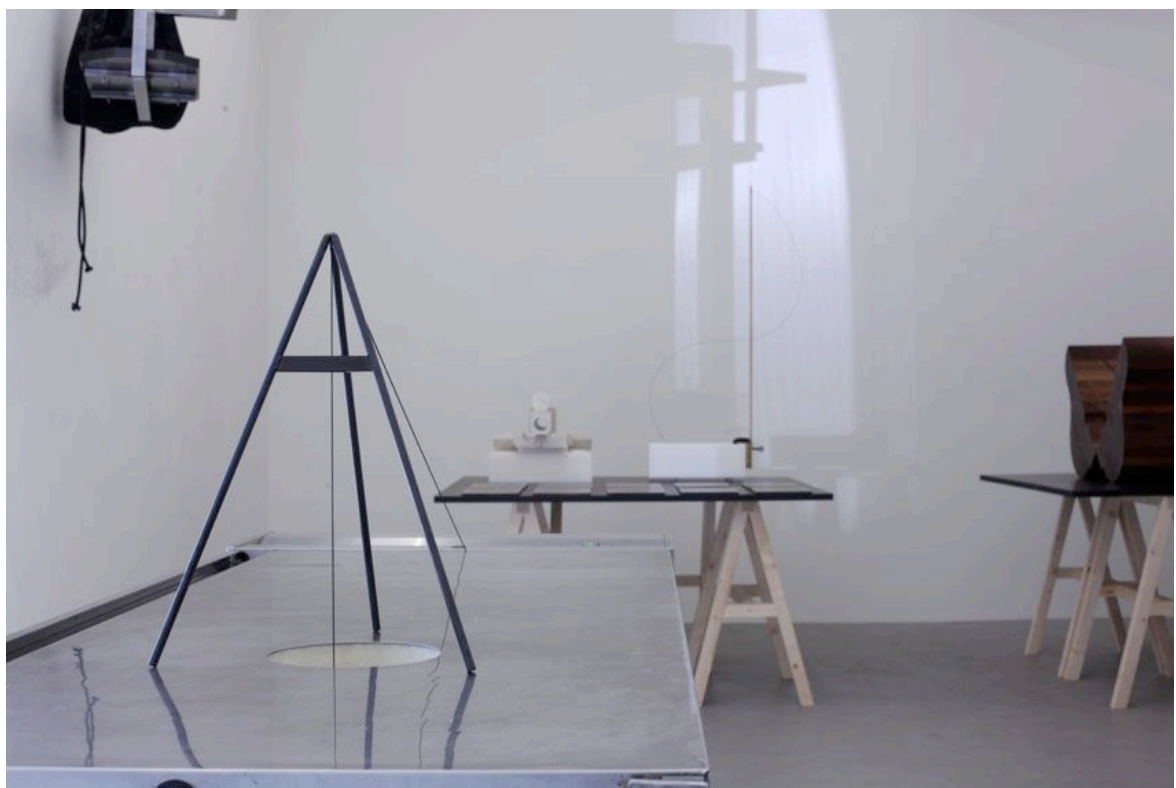


R.A.D.T.D.B., 2010, steel, plywood, nylon, clay

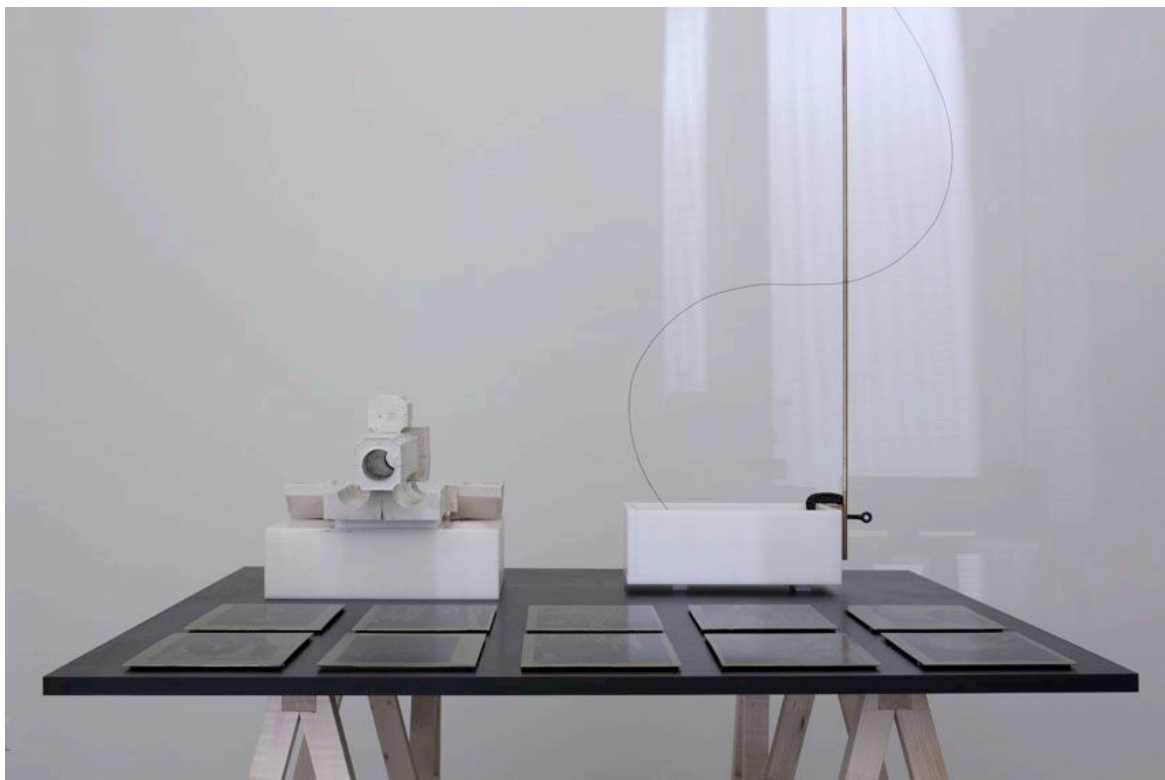
The action took place during the opening on August 27th 2010 and lasted approximately 3 hours.



R.A.D.T.D.B., 2010, steel, plywood, nylon, clay



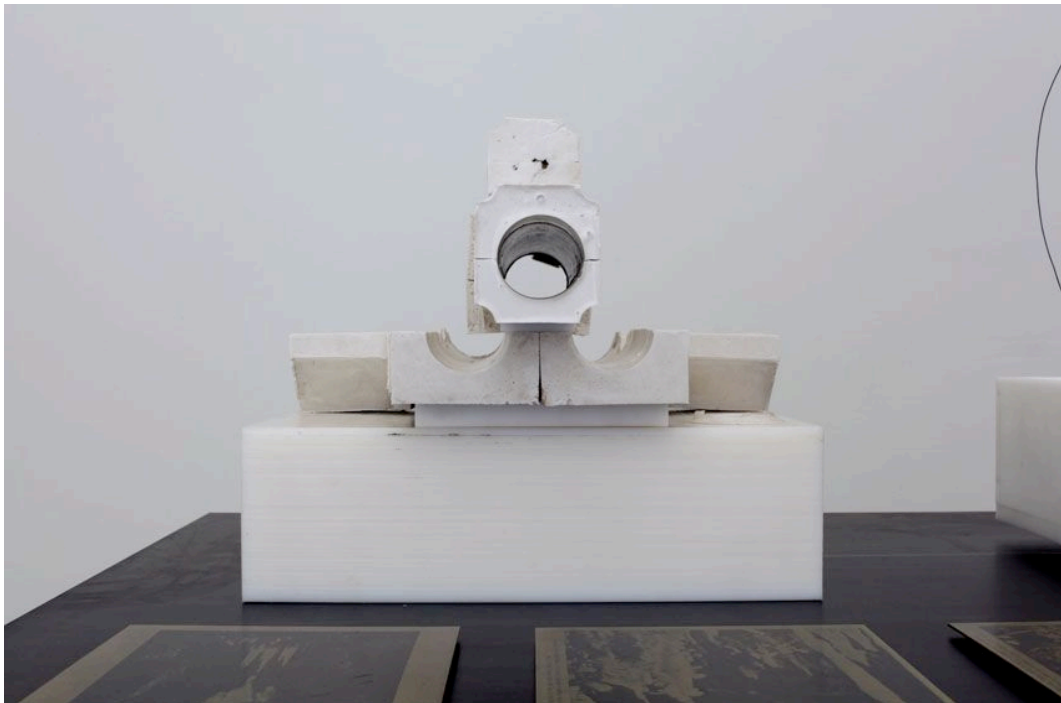
Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtrümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



- a) *Dante's Inferno*, 2010, silver gelatin print on brass plates, series of 10, 30 x 20 cm each
 - b) *Untitled (Napoleon's Wife)*, 2010, casts made of moulding silicon on nylon blocks
 - c) *Untitled (Austerlitz II)*, 2010, nylon, brass, French oysters, wire, steel pliers
- Table made of plywood and phenolic resin



a) *Dante's Inferno*, 2010, silver gelatin prints on brass plates, series of 10, 30 x 20 cm



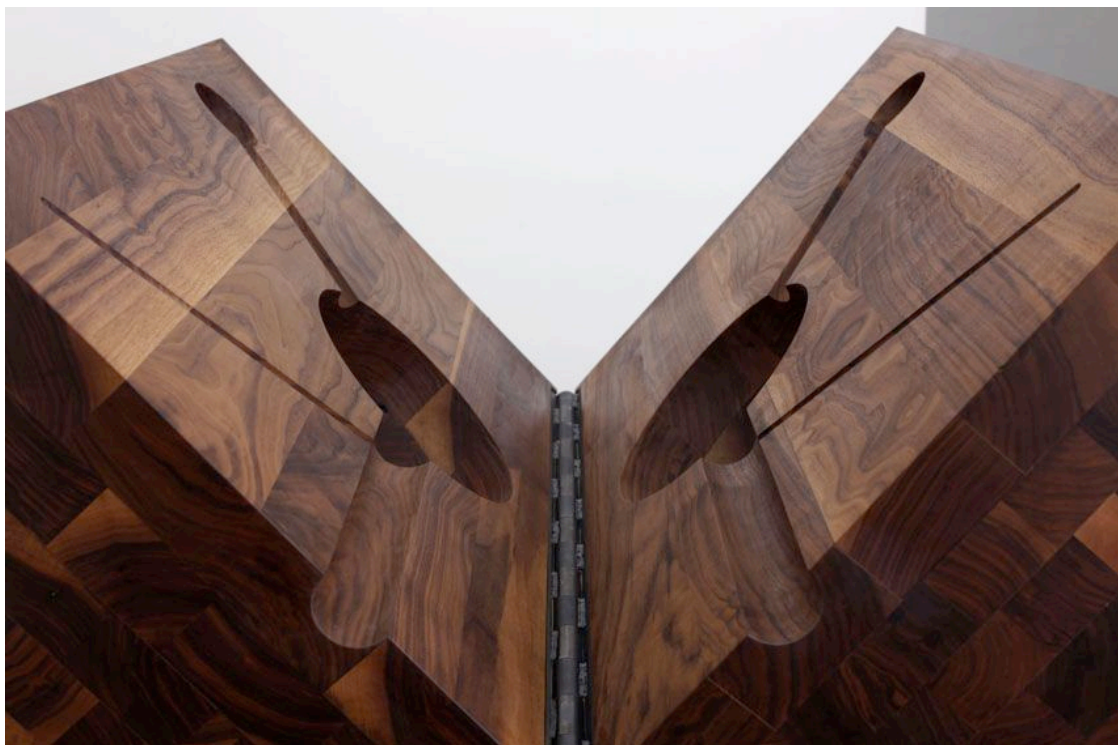
b) *Untitled (Napoleon's Wife)*, 2010, casts made of moulding silicon on nylon blocks



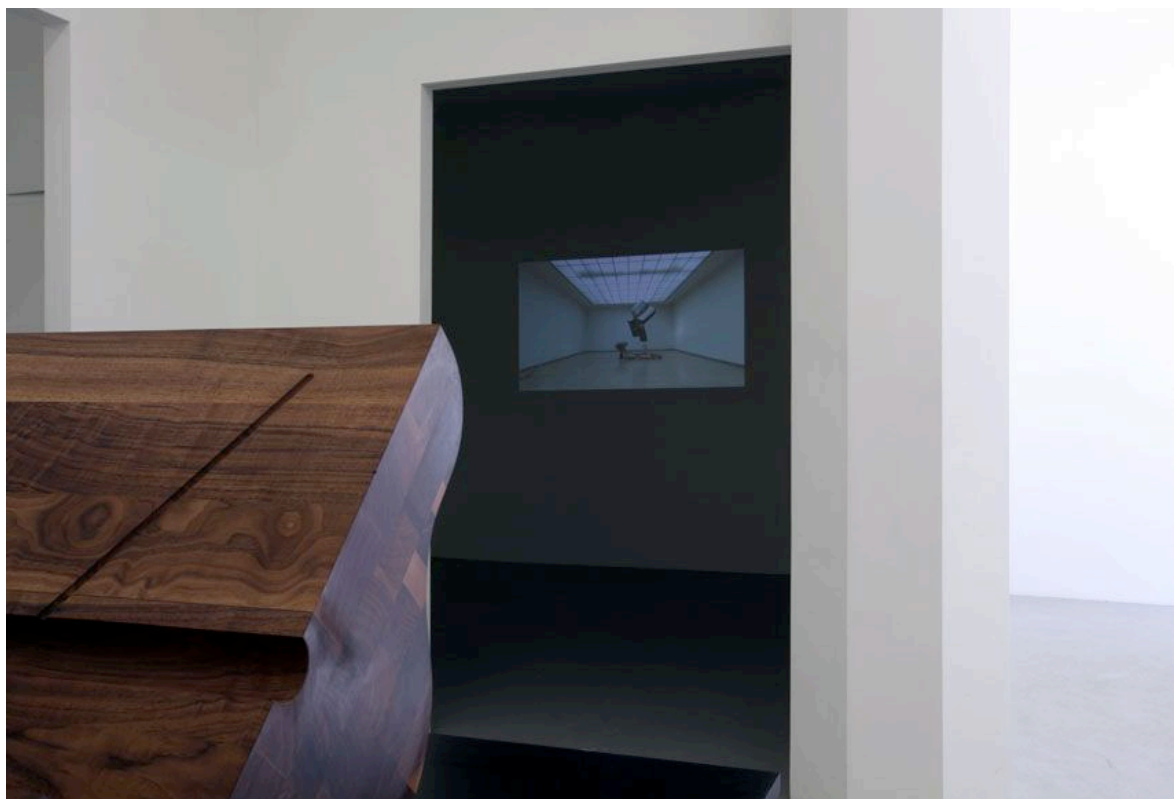
c) *Untitled (Austerlitz II)*, 2010, nylon, brass, French oysters, wire, steel pliers



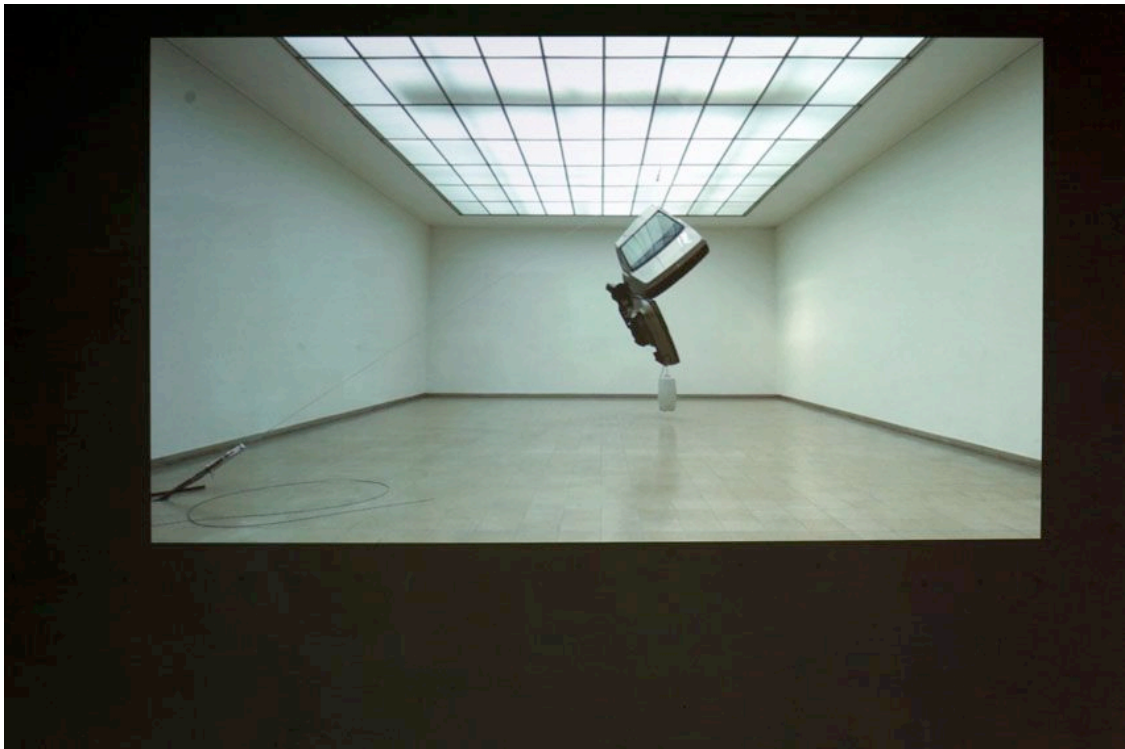
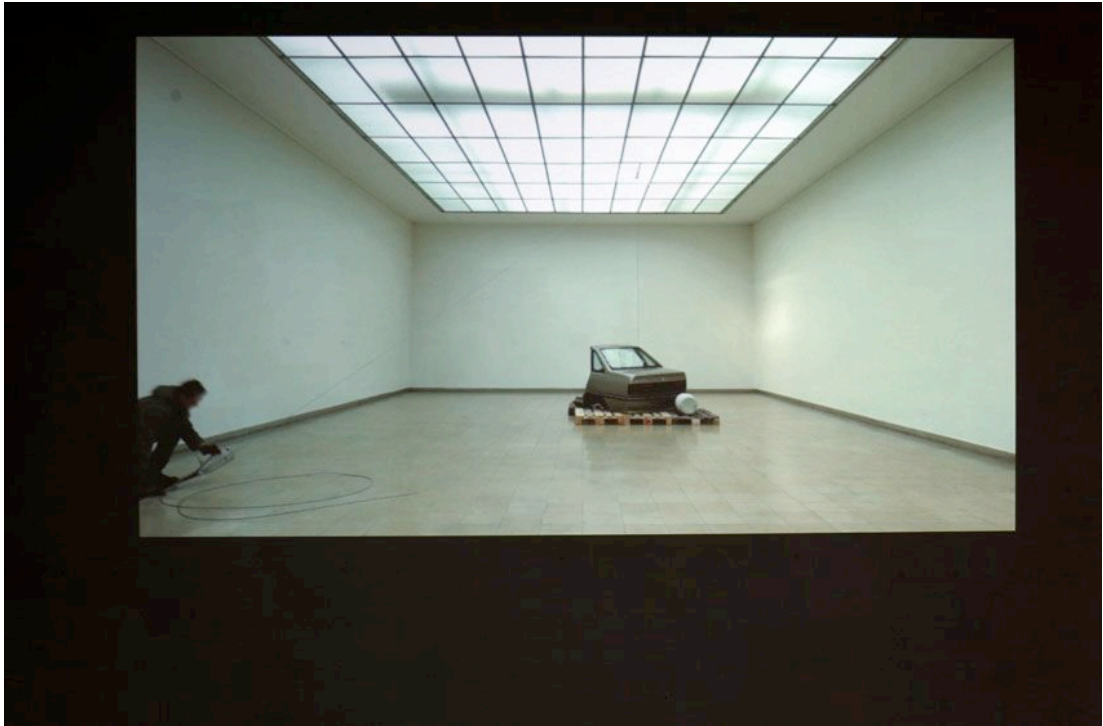
Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



Napoleon's Head / Athanor, 2010, glass blowing mould made of American walnut tree, table made of plywood and phenolic resin, 100 x 90 x 63 cm



Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



Austerlitz I, 2010, dvd, 5 min 12 sec
Unlimited edition



Installation view *St. Helena / Reichtümer aus den Tiefen der Berge*



Untitled, 2010, flattened American police badges - sheriff, sergent, officer, trooper, deputy