

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN: IT'S HIS SHOW

September 8 - October 21, 2006



The Buchmann Galerie Berlin will be showing twelve small-format sculptures by John Chamberlain between September 8 and October 21, 2006. A catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

"I've always wondered if you could make it so that you wouldn't know what size it was. I figured that that was the best way that I could ever define what scale was: you can't tell the size of it."

That remark by John Chamberlain on the question of the size of a sculpture is the theme of our current exhibition.

Seven new sculptures, painted in strong contrasts of black-white-black, and five earlier works using powerful colors, selected for the show by the artist himself, clarify John Chamberlain's multilayered occupation with the size, form, volume, and color of a given sculpture. Interestingly, with the smaller sculptures he uses the same methods as for his large-format works:

"I remember one line I wrote in which I put together two words: 'blonde day'. I'd never thought of a day being blonde. I still haven't, but I liked the way that the connection functioned, and it's a very good example of how I work. I still process stuff in the same way. There is material to be seen around you every day. But one day something - some one thing - pops out at you, and you pick it up, and you take it over, and you put it somewhere else, and it fits, it's just the right thing at the right moment. You can do the same thing with words or metal."

This direct, unfiltered approach with preexisting material, the putting together of metal parts that have been painted, cut, and bent in different ways to form a complex sculpture that leaves out the anecdotal in favor of attention to large and small elements represents an essential aspect of John Chamberlain's work. The direct visual sensation goes beyond mere composition and reflection.

BUCHMANN GALERIE

John Chamberlain (b. 1927 in Rochester, Indiana)

Lives and works on Shelter Island, New York

1951-52 Art Institute of Chicago
1955-56 Black Mountain College, friendships with the poets
Charles Olson and Robert Creeley
1957 *Shortstop*, his first sculpture using sheet metal from automobiles
1962 First exhibition at the Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
1971 Retrospective at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
1986 Retrospective at MoCA, Los Angeles
1996 Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg
2005 Kunstmuseum Winterthur
2006 Chinati Foundation Marfa, Texas

Large groups of works are held by the DIA Beacon in New York and the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas.

For additional information on the artist and for visual materials on the new works, please do not hesitate to contact the gallery.