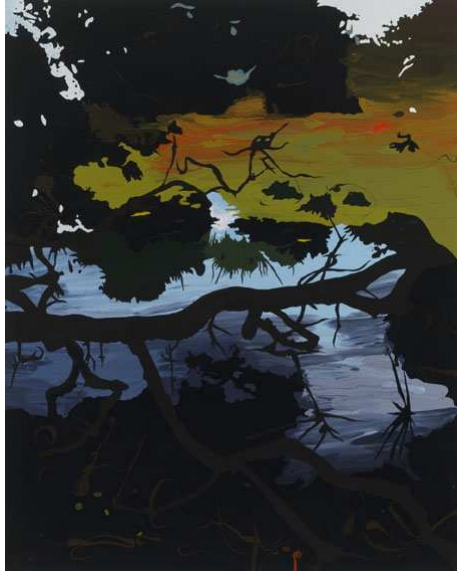


CLARE WOODS – *THE DANCING MANIA* – PAINTINGS

Opening: Friday, March 14, 2008, 7 – 9 pm  
Exhibition: March 14 – April 26, 2008



***Madam Pigott, 2008***  
Enamel and oil on aluminium,  
219 x 175 cm  
courtesy Buchmann Galerie Berlin

Buchmann Galerie presents new work by British painter Clare Woods in her first solo-exhibition in Germany.

The work is derived from photographs, very often shot at night, of supernaturally charged rural places. They are symbolic landscapes, humanised through the emotions embedded within them and alluding to pagan and folk traditions. They give a dark hue to any romantic visions of nature.

Although the motif is largely dictated by the photograph, the actual act of painting is improvised and led by the dynamics of the household glass and oil paint. At this stage, the tension between gesture and control determines the final outcome.

Clare Woods' paintings are intimate, desolate and indeterminable, depicting complex and ambiguous spaces while foregrounding formal qualities that employ both control and chance. What we see in Woods' compositions, on one level, is the pervading spirit of a landscape embodied in its natural forms and forces. But these paintings offer many possible readings

of what they contain. Clare Woods uses the innate fear and awe we have of nature and our highly developed capacity to project our desires onto it.

For her first exhibition at Buchmann Galerie, Clare Woods has produced, among others, a large-scale painting, 274 cm x 732 cm, that fills almost an entire wall of the gallery so that the viewer becomes physically enveloped in the reflective dark surface of the work.

Just as Clare Woods' visual language shifts between representation and abstraction, precision and accident, she is also interested in how her paintings might take on sculptural qualities when realised at this scale, so that viewers cannot perceive the surface of the work in one take.

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