

PRESSE RELEASE

WILLIE DOHERTY non-specific threat

Opening: 23 January, 6 - 8 pm
The exhibition runs until March 6, 2004

NON-SPECIFIC THREAT is a new exhibition of colour photographs and a single screen video installation by Willie Doherty. Doherty was born in 1959 in Derry, Northern Ireland. This will be the fourth exhibition of the artist in our gallery.

A group of large-scale photographs depict a young man (see invitation card) in a variety of nondescript urban settings by day and by night. He emerges from dark alleyways and stands defiantly at street corners. The photographs adopt the conventions of portraiture but deny us any factual details about the subject. He exists as a type whose purpose and whose social and economic status we are invited to speculate about.

The man in the photographs is an actor who was chosen by the artist because of his appearance in a television drama where he played the role of a menacing and violent character. The actor did not alter his physical appearance for the television role or for Doherty's photographs and the ambiguity between the presence of the subject/actor and the fictional character is central to the artist's intention.

Since the early 1990's Doherty's work has been concerned with how we characterise the often-unknown person or persons behind a perceived violent or terrorist threat (see *They're all the Same*, 1991). Our desire to recognise and scrutinise the "face of evil" is framed by our experience of how different governments and the media have historically represented and continue to define the terrorist. Such attempts to locate and understand a threat or an enemy necessitate the creation of a character who is beyond reason, outside of civilised society and who becomes known to us as a fusion of real and fictional figures.

The single screen video installation *Non-Specific Threat, 2004* shows the same man standing motionless in a dark, deserted warehouse. The camera makes a tight 360° pan around the man allowing us to see him from every angle. He is totally available for our scrutiny as the camera moves slowly around him. As we examine him we hear a voiceover, an internal monologue, where he expresses explicit and veiled threats and attempts to describe the nature of his relationship to the viewer.

The artist will be present before and at the opening. For further details of visual information or to arrange an interview with Willie Doherty, please contact Claudia Friedli at +41 1 440 39 31 or at c.friedli@kilchmannгалerie.com.

The single screen video installation *Pilgrimage, 2003* co-produced by Artur Zmijewski and Pawel Althamer will be on display in the newly finished video room.

In the exhibition space **kilchmann plus** will be on view a group exhibition by gallery artists (Rita Ackermann, Stefan Altenburger, Francis Alÿs, John Coplans, Fabrice Hybert, Teresa Margolles, Adrian Paci, Santiago Sierra, Costa Vece, and Andro Wekua.)