

SAM PORRITT **Going Forward...**

May 6 – June 4, 2011

Anne Mosseri-Marlio Galerie is very pleased to present Sam Porritt's first solo show in Switzerland entitled Going Forward...

'...Going forward' or 'going forward...' is a common utterance of English speaking politicians. The words are often inserted into political speeches to such a degree that they lose meaning and take on the role of punctuation. There is something reassuring and vague about the phrase. In fact, it could be argued that its popularity is due to its lack of precise meaning - after all, it's impossible to go backwards in time.

Porritt asks us to pause and reflect with his current series of ink on paper drawings using looping lines. These are derived from serious contemplation of construction, structure and language, and lead to alternatives, juxtaposition of negative and positive space. Titles complete the work, just as the dot on the 'i', and lead to reflection. The visual imagery and whispered thought are a perfect match for the new direction.

Jokes are dependent on timing, delivery, and the punch line. The best are short and to the point. Ink drawings don't offer an artist a second chance. The entire work must be carefully reflected upon and each stroke precisely placed, flowing fluidly from thought to paper in complete harmony with the brush – the hand's natural extension. The drawing Going Forward, 2010, (57 x 76 cm), presents a landscape made of vertical coils covered by a horizontal platform. The tightness loosens towards the top and seems to relax as we look to the right, the magician's illusion. Upon reflection we realize the equilibrium is based on orientation and a delicately balanced composition. The continuously repeating loops are caught off-guard crossing the paper and over the precipice. The looping line continues, unsupported.

Direction as well as opposites are crucial elements of these compositions, as is the repeating looping line language that evolved from previous series that concentrated on straight or half round lines. The hint of the winding road on a mountain exemplifies the process and the titles "Past the Pyramids" or "Through the Mountains" call attention to the clarity in structure. "One Up, Three Down", 2010, a four piece set, draws attention to the inevitable force of gravity. The double entendre in "Exit / Entrance", 2010, is one of Porritt's more evocative works – the imagery is personal. Capturing depth in a few strokes comes easily for the artist and sculptor.

The pigmented plaster sculpture "Followers First" is presented directly on the floor in variations of the same basic element – elongated cylindrical forms. The rounded bridging allows for variety, the creation of an enclosure or delimiters of a particular view. How many different versions are possible? What are their different meanings? Will we be led forward?

Exact balance and pairing in precise measures create inspirational and thought provoking works that lead to creative solutions as we move forward.

Through the combination of very simple means – ink on paper or plaster – and precise titles, Porritt provokes multiple meanings and complex associations in the mind of the viewer.

Sam Porritt (GB, 1979) was born and raised in England. He graduated from the Sculpture Chelsea School of Art and Design in 2002 and earned a Post Graduate Diploma from the Royal Academy Schools, London in 2005. He held various teaching positions while continuing his studio practice. He has maintained a studio in Switzerland since 2009 and moved to Zurich in 2010. Exhibits include shows at The Hayward Project Space, Thomas Dane Gallery, The Drawing Room, London and Grimm Gallery in Amsterdam. He recently curated a show at K3 Project Space, Zurich.