

EVA SCHLEGEL

OPENING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010, FROM 9 PM

EXHIBITION DURATION: DECEMBER 9, 2010 – 28 – FEBRUARY 5, 2011

Flying and falling is the leitmotif of Eva Schlegel's show at the Galerie Krinzinger, taking place concurrently with her exhibition "In Between" at the Museum für angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Art). In this show, the artist approaches her theme from a variety of different angles. Over the past few years she has developed a keen interest in the subject matter and created a number of works reflecting this. Using diverse media she has tackled the two extremes, which is documented in the exhibition by additional reference material. As a metaphor for success and failure the theme alludes to deeply human situations, which in Schlegel's artistic work are close allies, even constitutive of each other. Each confrontation with one's own failure also offers a chance to discover new ideas for oneself and to tap new sources of creativity.

A huge balloon in the exhibition is a striking reference to the MAK exhibition. With imposing corporeality and size, it also alludes to the pixel as the smallest pictorial element in the digital world of images – like the atoms found in objects, it also constitutes pictorial information when arranged the right way. A white ball also relates to the theme of flying, while also playing with the sensation of being unfettered, drifting away, always accompanied by the risk of bursting.

In the 1950s Joseph Kittinger took part in a number of experiments conducted by the US Air Force. At a time when there was still no manned space travel, they were studying the effect of altitude on the human body. As the so-called "first man in space" Kittinger held the world record in free fall with 31,322 meters (he was also the first, in 1984, to cross the Atlantic in a gas balloon), a parachute jump of 4 minutes and 36 seconds at up to 998 km per hour, which was then described as "leap from the edge of the world". In Eva Schlegel's cloud pictures the viewer encounters the sky again as something both beautiful and ominous. The large-format silkscreens are printed on lead, a material that is both extremely heavy and soft. Like the motive of floating between heaven and earth it can also be applied to the polarity of failure and success. The room with the mirror tables conveys an impression of the ephemeral and the fleeting. Here the space is perpetuated and dissolved, and in the fragmentation of the space the ground is no longer tangible – and perception is put to the test. This uncertainty is reflected in falling and flying as well. The viewer now finds him/herself "in between", between floor and ceiling, in free space which is not tangible, that is to say, literally in between.

Eva Schlegel was born in Hall in Tyrol in 1960 and today lives and works in Vienna. Since 1987 she has shown with the Galerie Krinzinger where her last exhibition opened in summer of 2009. Her show "In Between" is on view at the MAK (Säulenhalle) until May 1, 2011. In 2011 she will be curator of the Austrian contribution to the Venice Biennale.