



Vegas Gallery

/Untitled/, Geraldine Gliubislavich, oil on canvas, 2008

Situated in the heart of East London, this contemporary art space focuses on an experimental programme that showcases current works by international artists with the synergy of various independent curators. We meet Suzanne Schurgers, its young and spirited director.



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Text:
Francesca Serra

Sur la Terre: How long ago did you arrive in London?

Suzanne Schurgers: I grew up in Maastricht, in the South of Holland. After I graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam I moved to London in 2005 to join the directing collective MINIVEGAS as an art director and producer. Vegas Gallery was later set up in 2007 by me and my brother Luc and is a side project from MINIVEGAS.

SLT: What did bring you to work in the gallery?

S.S: MINIVEGAS is a directing collective from 5 friends, set up by my brother Luc Schurgers, we make musicvideos and tv commercials. We are located in a basement of an old East London warehouse in the heart of the young and cool art district of Shoreditch. One day we decided to set up a project space, where international

artists could showcase their work. We think that a media company together with an art gallery go hand in hand.

The first exhibition we did was a solo exhibition of the recently graduated Swiss/French artists Geraldine Gliubislavich. This was not only a sold out show, it also brought us amazing professional contacts like the International renowned curator Ken Pratt we currently work with. After running the project space



Exhibition /Loose Booty/



/No More Mr. Nice Guy/,
Simon Willem,
watercolour and acrylic
on paper (2008)

for 1,5 year, VEGAS Gallery became what it is today: a representing gallery who stays firmly on the International map. Geraldine Gliubislavich is now showing Internationally and has won the Jerwood Painters Prize of 2009.

SLT: Which qualities are necessary to work in the art field?

S.S: Having a background as an artist myself, certainly benefits my relationship with the artists that we work with. You have to enjoy dealing with people, as maintaining contacts and setting up international networks are of course just as important. Not working with the 'from 9 till 6' mentality, as most of the times working hours are like 14 hour a day as there are so much private views to attend and other networking events. But this is why I enjoy it, the art field is a crossover from work to lifestyle. Every 4 weeks we set up a new exhibition, so painting, building walls, and more DIY work comes in handy!

SLT: Can you describe the exposition you are working for presently (Frankenstein)?

S.S: We are currently working towards a Frankenstein themed

touring exhibition "I am by birth a Genevese" that brings together 162 artists, of which more than 80 % are artists from Switzerland. This installation project is imagined by Swiss artist Alexandre Bianchini and French/Swiss artist Pascal Rousson to re-enact the strange atmosphere of Doctor Frankenstein's laboratory and generate a new art work, a new creature. Made of several and diverse works, purposely clashing with each other, their creation will only been revealed on the evening of the preview. "I am by birth a Genevese" will also be shown at Forde-Usine (Geneva), from 8 September to 4 October 2009.

SLT: The best and worst sides of your position?

S.S: "Having huge responsibility" is both the best side and also sometimes the worst side of my



Heringa/Van Kalsbeek (2009)

position as a gallery director. But to be honest, I can't complain, I love the job I have. I get to meet so many new people everytime, and no day is the same, every day is different.

SLT: Contemporary male and female artists that you adore?

S.S: Jeff Koons and Marlene Dumas.

SLT: Foreseen exposition in Vegas Gallery for the second half of 2009?

S.S: In the summer we show the Frankenstein themed groupshow, after this we hope to show in August: Vampire inspired photography by the Vietnamese photographer Tyen who is the art director for Maison Dior, but this is not confirmed yet.

In September we are presenting

Vegas Gallery
64-66 Redchurch Street
London E2 7DP
www.vegasgallery.co.uk
Open Wednesday to Saturday
12:00-18:00
Open Sunday to Tuesday by
appointment only

the first solo exhibition of new sculptures of the established Dutch artists-duo Heringa/Van Kalsbeek in the UK.

We are also proud to announce that a solo project with Carla Arocha and Stephane Schraenen has been confirmed for our autumn show.