

## **Surface/Tension**

**New work by Kitty Kraus, Dan Shaw-Town and Gedi Sibony**

**15 February – 19 March 2011**

**29 Bell Street**

Lisson Gallery is pleased to announce a three-person exhibition of new works by Kitty Kraus, Dan Shaw-Town and Gedi Sibony. The works in the show explore the unifying aesthetic and interest in unconventional materials and sculptural practices shared by these three geographically and methodologically disparate artists. The exhibition will be the first time that these artists have shown work with Lisson Gallery.

Kitty Kraus' installations explore the physical processes that govern how materials behave. Through Kraus' interventions small-scale objects act in unexpected ways, transforming and expanding to fit their environment. Glass explodes through overheating and dyed black ice melts across the floor as the potential instability of seemingly ordered materials is revealed. Kraus also works extensively with sheet glass, exploring its fragility and often attempts to push the large sheets almost to their breaking point to achieve a desired quality within the material. Throughout her practice Kitty Kraus imposes a constant state of tension and fragility within her sculpture. This action causes her sculptural objects to either visibly alter over a short period of time or create an expectation that there will be a violent and sudden change, which never comes.

Dan Shaw-Town's work possesses a polished quality that belies his intricate and layered use of materials and the utilitarian nature of his installation process. Using traditional processes of mark-making with graphite on paper, he folds, crumples, flattens and reworks drawings so that they become simultaneously polished and worn to unveil their hidden potential. The precision with which works are formed becomes apparent only on close contact: every stroke and mark placed carefully. Drawings are erased, sanded and painted to achieve a wide array of surfaces and textures, many of which seem at first to sit uncomfortably on the paper. Many works blur the distinctions between drawing and sculpture by becoming folded objects placed on the floor, where much of their heavily worked surface becomes hidden only to be revealed when unfolded.

Gedi Sibony's minimalist installations make use of found, everyday materials such as cardboard, plastic sheeting, carpeting and wood. Placed on view largely unaltered, these humble objects intrude upon and define their environment, occupying voids and spaces and imbuing them with a poetic quality. Sibony's aesthetic sensibility relies on little more than that of the details within a material or object. The fragility of materials often viewed as 'junk' causes the viewer to reassess the objects' original intended use and construction. The dissection and re-appropriation of objects throughout Gedi Sibony's work causes a shift in how these materials are absorbed by the viewer, the appropriated objects become simultaneously skeletal remains of their original form while also becoming precise but abstract assemblages in their own right.

### **About the artists**

Kitty Kraus (b.1976) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford (2010); Balice Hertling, Paris (2010); Guggenheim Museum, New York (2009); Tongewölbe T25, Ingolstadt (2009); Kunstverein Heilbronn (2008); Kunsthalle Zurich (2008); Gabriele Senn, Vienna (2007); Galerie Neu, Berlin (2006).

Dan Shaw-Town (b. 1983) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include Khastoo, Los Angeles (2010); Christopher Crescent, London (2010); Gallery-C at TEAM, New York (2009); Christopher Crescent, London (2009); RUN, London (2008).

Gedi Sibony (b.1973) lives and works in Brooklyn. Recent solo exhibitions include Fundação Caixa Geral De Depósitos, Lisbon (2011); Gladstone Gallery, Brussels (2009); The Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (2009); Galerie Neu, Berlin (2008); Greene Naftali Gallery, New York (2008); Galleria Zero, Milan (2008).