

LISSON GALLERY LONDON LTD.

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PRESS RELEASE

SIMON LINKE - ARTFORUM PAINTINGS
AT LISSON GALLERY 66-68 BELL STREET

Simon Linke is a young British painter who has attracted the attention of the art world in the last year for his paintings based on Artforum advertisements. These remarkable and beautiful paintings featured in his one-man show at the Grey Art Gallery in New York last September were received with surprise and enthusiasm. The show at the Lisson Gallery will be his first one-man show in Britain which will shortly follow an exhibition at the innovative T'Venster Gallery, Rotterdam.

At the Lisson Gallery he is planning to show fifteen paintings, the first measuring 24" X 24" and the second 16" X 16", (both exact multiples of the size of Artforum Magazine) and five larger canvases.

The surfaces of the paintings are richly textured by brushmarks which suggest memories of the concentrated painterly surfaces of Jasper Johns or Robert Rauschenberg. By contrasting purely aesthetic painterlyness with the subject matter of the advertisements he moves to an area outside the fine art tradition. He thereby questions the idea of 'meaningful' content and seeks to cast doubts on the autonomy of aesthetic experience.

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Linke sees the idea of appropriation which is the concern of so many artists as incidental and not central to his thinking. The advertisements in Artforum draw our attention to the status and ambitions of artists and galleries, and their function as a monthly index of the activities of the International art world. By using this subject matter to make paintings, Linke also makes a permanent record of the constant changing position of artists and galleries alike. Doing this Simon Linke transforms ephemera into something enduring. The meaning of which will change with time. Some paintings will become akin to gravestones and other monuments to history.

In addition to demonstrating the dependence of art on systems of validation, the repetition of images containing dates, names of artists and galleries, draws parallels to artists associated with conceptual and systems orientated work which first emerged in the 1960's, most notably On Kawara's date paintings and Hanne Darboven's schematic and repetitive work.

The show opens on Tuesday 17th March 1987 until Saturday 18th April 1987.

Editors: For further information please contact
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