

Hendershot Gallery

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IMPERMANENCE

Hendershot Gallery

April 29 – June 10, 2010

Opening reception April 29, 6-8 pm



Cătălin Petrișor (Romanian, b. 1978)
Walk on By, 2009
Oil and graphite on canvas, 15.7 x 19.7 inches

April 15, 2010, New York - Hendershot Gallery, in conjunction with MB Art Agency, Amsterdam, and C-Projects, Beijing, is pleased to present *Impermanence*, a group exhibition that showcases the work of four Romanian artists of different generations, and five artists from Holland, Serbia, Germany, and Luxembourg. The exhibition will be open to the public from April 29 until June 10, 2010.

Impermanence presents the work of Boukje Janssen, Iosef Király, Sanja Medic, Ana Maria Micu, Cătălin Petrișor, Victor Răcățău, Kathrin Schlegel, Vera Weissgerber, and Carine Weve. The show intends to create a unique platform where similar artistic sentiments and aesthetic approaches can flourish in an international dialogue.

The notion of impermanence, of a shifting world in flux, has taken on a profound meaning in the

post-war period, one that is particularly timely in the international climate of the post-9/11 world. In Eastern Europe, especially in post-communist countries such as Romania, "impermanence" characterizes a common feeling of fatalism, uncertainty, and endemic precariousness. In Western Europe and America, the same notion evokes a sense of liberation as well as anxiety, for it represents the possibility of escape from the rigidity of formerly fixed social, cultural and political meanings, paradigms that have been rendered ambiguous, if not null and void, by the upheaval of recent history.

Having approached the forefront of the art world in recent years, contemporary Romanian art has gained exposure and momentum through major gallery and museum exhibitions, as well as through the efforts of curators such as Maria Rus Bojan, who has been instrumental in the collaborative organization of this show. Generally characterized by the smoldering aesthetic darkness of its pared-down realism, contemporary Romanian art is most often discussed in political terms, with curators, critics, and viewers attributing the contemporary Romanian creative impetus to the turmoil of the country's turbulent, violent history; Romania's clichéd past appears to overshadow its present on the global stage. While such a view may be partially valid, to restrict the assessment of contemporary Romanian art entirely to such cultural specificity is to clip its wings. To this end, *Impermanence* proposes the productive and worthwhile use of a more universal lens in the (re)consideration of contemporary Romanian art by placing it in a pertinent dialogue with works that arise out of different European cultures, but which ultimately share a common creative interest.

The desire to reflect on time, the past, and its inevitable effects on the human condition has deep roots in the history of artistic production, and will arguably remain a constant in the equation of human experience forever. The works presented in this exhibition, produced by contemporary artists of disparate backgrounds and wrought in a variety of materials, treat the universality of this fundamental notion with poetic modesty. They present a vision of the dichotomy of time – of the ephemeral and the permanent – that is characterized by a quiet, introspective profundity. The final product, then, is a timely artistic discussion of this shifting, changing historical moment, and its effects on the creative pursuits of the artists represented here. What ensues is an aesthetic contemplation of the inevitable presence of the past and the ambiguous impermanence of the present.

For more information on *Impermanence* and Hendershot Gallery, please contact James Hendershot at 212.239.1210 or james@hendershotgallery.com