

# D A N E S E

## Matthias Meyer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*The ornament of beauty is suspect*

March 20 – April 19, 2009

Danese is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by German artist Matthias Meyer. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, March 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

While the natural world plays a profound role in Meyer's work, he maintains a delicate balance in its portrayal between realism and abstraction. Within that world, water is the subject of inquiry – lakes, ponds, waterfalls, and often the plant life they contain. Both mysterious and revealing, the water's surface reflects its surroundings and simultaneously offers a glimpse into a realm below. Enigmatic, distorted images of decomposing tree trunks emerge from the depths, while reeds, water lilies and grasses thrive above. These organic forms converge to form a dynamic ecosystem, nature's cycle of life, death and regeneration. Meyer's approach is not to literally depict these elements, but to transform them, interweaving images into rich, magical, dreamlike environments filled with the perception of water, light and color.

Meyer's painting method emulates the properties of water itself; diluted oil paint runs and falls across the canvas, investing the medium with the transparency and ephemeral quality of watercolor. *He employs a wet-on-wet technique, blurring the outlines so that we can no longer distinguish the boundaries between ostensible reality and mirror image...The flowing and shimmering surface of the water he explores in his work is a metaphor for the process of painting.*<sup>1</sup>

Matthias Meyer was born in Göttingen, Germany in 1969. He studied art at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf with Gerhard Richter and was named "student of honor" (Meisterschüler) in Richter's last master class in 1994. Meyer was also a guest student in 1994 at London's Chelsea College of Art, and in the same year received the distinguished Max Ernst Award of the City of Brühl. In 1995, he was the German laureate of the European Art Competition of the Schweizer Bankverein in London. Matthias Meyer currently lives and works in Germany.

For further information please call Carol Corey or Alexandra Woodworth, (212) 223-2227.

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<sup>1</sup> Ermacora, Dr. Beate. Matthias Meyer. Munich: Galerie Andreas Binder, 2006.