

# GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESS RELEASE

**JOHN M ARMLEDER**  
**"I'M LATE, I'M LATE, I'M RUNNING FOR A DATE"**  
OCTOBER 28, 2011 – JANUARY 27, 2012

On October 28, Galerie Andrea Caratsch, Zürich is opening an exhibition of new works by John Armleder. The show runs until January 27, 2012. The gallery is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Somehow, somewhere something is happening.

Indeed. John Armleder is a *believer* and all of his work is based on this simple fact: what you do is done by the time you do it. Or perhaps before...

The *White Rabbit* is running for a date in Wonderland, as much as we are here, but somehow, somewhere something of that date is said and done by the time you know it. It doesn't mean anything, a purpose that fulfils precisely all meanings, if any.

The new works completed by John Armleder for this show have as many clues as hints of answers to unasked questions. The artist has had a full array of *non-leading* leads on his agenda, since ever. But this new show is a bakery wonder of layers upon layers, of spreads and stuffing, a *mille-feuille* as he tends to depict the offerings, with no clear recipe on the servings he submits as a mute steward. So then, what's on top might well be the pedestal, and the clock, as functional as it may be, has no handles to tell the time.

John Armleder signposted most elements of the pieces completed this summer almost three years ago, before being caught up by a major health hindrance that kept him away for all that time. He claims to have visited quite a few planets then, but kept notes about the pieces delivered today in forms that might have never existed somehow. Hints about what it might be all about are once more snares and traps. The artist claims, loud and mute, that all this is abstract, form and non-objective. Do not read anything you believe to know into the magic of crystal skulls, the devoted suffering a gold crown of thorns might picture, flaming guitars or spindle clad paintings to repel pigeons or evil beings... Like the glass and silver brains and other works of the sort, the artist had dealt with this heavy weight imaginary long before any hint of borderline tourism was on his agenda.

He claims all this means nothing, it is in fact *About Nothing* and nothing means a lot, and lots. Mr. Armleder claims he knows nil of all this, and better, his hands are many. In order to cover it all, and walk away as far as the road goes, the artist has often given his hands away. In the melting cauldron where endless numbers of intelligences, trained acrobats, blind magicians and a few artists gather, John

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Armleder entertains a wide acquaintanceship. It is a world where no one is to know the face under, or behind, the hood. Mr. Armleder doesn't believe he is the or a author. That author is everywhere, and sometimes nowhere, and is perhaps as much yesterday as tomorrow. Or... there might be no author at all. Artists like among others Stéphane Kropf, Urs Burger, Silvano Signoretto of Murano and Christophe Graber who recently completed the crown of thorns, have injected that special extension to the artist platform, a land claimed by him since the early days of the *Ecart* artist cooperative in the late sixties.

This show combines paths, avenues and perspectives that all previous achievements by the artist were hinting to.

Maybe the beheaded clown, a corner stone element in John Armleder's recent glass works manufactured at Murano for his show this summer at the Peggy Guggenheim Foundation in Venice, stares where and how the artist might want to gaze and us to see. That exhibition was titled *Away* and we might be running for a date.

*Willy Parker*

*Saint Moritz, Summer 2011*

John Armleder currently has a monographic exhibition at the Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall (8.10.2011 – 3.1.2012) and works in the following group shows „Young Art“ at the Kunsthaus Zürich (16.9. – 27.11.2011) and „Beispiel Schweiz“ at the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein in Vaduz (30.9.2011 – 15.1.2012). He is the curator of the exhibition „All of the Above“ at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (18.10. – 31.12.2011).