

GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESS RELEASE

BETTY TOMPKINS

SEX WORKS

MAY 20 – JULY 29, 2011

The tightly focused photorealist paintings of heterosexual intercourse Betty Tompkins made between 1969 and 1974 were practically unknown when they were shown together for the first time in New York in 2002 at the Mitchell Alguus Gallery. Their rediscovery marked a significant addition to the repertoire of first generation feminist-identified imagery. Since that exhibition, Tompkins' work has been seen at the Lyon Biennale in 2003, and her first intercourse painting, „Fuck Painting #1“ entered the collection of Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Georges Pompidou, recently being shown in the museum's exhibition of women artists from the collection Elles@CentrePompidou. Although Betty Tompkins' work was not included in LA MOCA's 2007 exhibition „Wack! Art and the Feminist Revolution“, it figured prominently in Richard Meyer's essay for the show's catalog, „Hard Targets: Male bodies, Feminist Art and the Force of Censorship in the 1970s“. Most recently, the artist's paintings have been included in „Lust and Vice: The Seven Deadly Sins From Durer to Naumann“ at the Kunstmuseum and Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern.

Over the past decade, Tompkins has significantly expanded her oeuvre, both in terms of imagery and technique. Her first new paintings were made using novel media such as rubber stamps and fingerprints, of which two important examples are included in the current exhibition. More recently the artist has resumed her use of the air brush, investing the painting's immaculate surfaces with a chromatic subtlety that stand in stark contrast to the powerfully explicit nature of her subjects.

It is the second exhibition of Tompkins' work at Galerie Andrea Caratsch. The first one featured her early „Fuck Paintings“ and drawings from the late 60's and early 70's. This show is devoted to her latest work and will include 18 new paintings as well as two rubber stamp paintings from 2006 and 2007.

The exhibition will be on view from May 20 to July 29, 2011.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM.