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photo: Urs Fries

DIRK WESTPHAL *NÜKLE* *natur und kunst leisure enterprise*

OCTOBER 12 – NOVEMBER 11, 2006 • Opening Thursday, October 12, from 6 – 8 pm

Mixed Greens is thrilled to present their second solo show with Dirk Westphal. In this exhibition, Westphal will expand his photography practice to include installation and video.

For several years, Westphal worked with perceptions of natural and manmade beauty by photographing medicinal fluids and fish. For this exhibition, he widens his focus. As an avid surfer, Westphal spent the last two years learning and perfecting the art of surfboard-making. He also invented a process to adhere his signature fish photos to the surface of the boards. The results are beautiful, ready-to-use sculptures.

In conjunction, Westphal made a one-hour instructional video on 'how to make a surfboard.' Informative and funny, the video demonstrates the absurd nature of do-it-yourself programs. With over 100 steps, Westphal shows the world how he makes a surfboard and discourages others from doing the same. For a more immediate demonstration, Westphal's surfboard-making shack will be transported to the gallery. Westphal or one of his crew will demonstrate the art of surfboard-making on Saturdays for the duration of the show. Finished surfboards will be displayed as monolithic sculptures.

In the north gallery, Westphal debuts his new body of shark fin photographs within the context of a studio installation. Unlike most photographer's studios, Westphal's studio is a conglomeration of diverse interests in multiple media. Small sculptures, music, self-made board games, videos and found objects abound. In the shark fin photos, Westphal strapped a wooden fin to his body and swam offshore. The resulting photographs are documentary-style shots full of simultaneous hilarity and fear. While the entire show encourages respect for the ocean, Westphal also reveals the flipside to such a close relationship with the water.

Dirk Westphal has been featured extensively in group shows at venues including Irvine Contemporary, Washington DC (2006); Black and White Gallery, Brooklyn (2005); The Arts Club of Washington DC (2004); The Museum of the City of New York (2003); Art In General, New York City (2001); and Exit Art, New York City (2000). Solo shows have included Mixed Greens, New York City (2004, 2006); Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia (2005, 2003); and Harley Baldwin Gallery, Colorado (2002).

Mixed Greens sells original contemporary art online, through our catalog and in our New York gallery. Founded in 1999 on the belief that great art should be accessible to everyone, the gallery currently represents a diverse group of artists, including painters, photographers and sculptors.