

February 10, 2010

Press Release

DAWN FRASCH

February 19 – April 3, 2010

Opening: Thursday, February 18, 2010, 6 – 9 PM

HAAS & FISCHER is pleased to present the international premier solo show of American artist Dawn Frasch (*1978, lives and works New York).

With the 18 paintings that are displayed in Zurich, Frasch invites the beholder into her cabinet of sexual horror. Her works reflect the excessive confrontation with sexuality in contemporary society that has become inevitable due to its constant presence in the Internet and media. This is true to such an extent, that it has become a part of the everyday routine just like the daily mouse click. It is not just the cadence of images that we are exposed to, but also the form of representation in pornography, which have moved towards detailed, exaggerated close-ups. In this iconography of sexual horror the boundaries between sexuality and violence seem to be diminishing.

With the painterly qualities of her work, Frasch punctuates the clash of the visual media. Some parts of her paintings are structured by generous brush strokes while with others it seems like the focus has been sharpened, and out of the cloudy constructs emerge delicately worked scenes with actors that belong to a child's book rather than to a pornographic magazine. She lets Sesame Street meet the multimillion porn Industry.

In the work *Dog Eat Dog* Frasch depicts a pack of dogs that attack each other. The wild dogs that are associated with wolves can be read as the epitome of vice and in that way once again fit the theme of sexual horror. The frontier between violent appropriation and lust seems to have vanished.

Influenced by feminist video and performance artists like Joan Jonas or Vivienne Dick, the artist herself is familiar with those media. Their procedures are mirrored in her paintings, where some of them appear to be like film stills where densely filled clusters have to balance with vague and fuzzy areas.

Opening reception on Thursday, February 18 from 6 – 9 pm. Gallery hours are Thursday through Friday 14–18, Saturday 12–16; Sunday through Wednesday by appointment. For further information and images, please contact Bettina Strickler at +41 (0)43 538 61 46 or info@haasfischer.com.