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Olaf Breuning: *quiet afternoon*
5 May - 8 July 2017

The gallery Nicola von Senger is pleased to announce the Swiss-born, New York-based artist Olaf Breuning (born 1970) with new drawings and sculptures in his fifth solo exhibition at the gallery.

Described by the art critic Roberta Smith as "the joking sculptor," Olaf Breuning is known for his work in the appropriation of kitsch, cliché and popular culture, which he subtly combines in the form of drawing, sculpture, video, photography and installation. In these, he utilizes a vocabulary that draws from the significant cultural heritage of everyday life and raises a common visual iconography that penetrates deep into the pathos and the absurdity of human experience.

In particular, his drawings eloquently concentrate the key themes and motifs of his work, using a trimmed down, graphic form to vivify his viewpoint. His drawings are characterized by superficial visual puns and corny graphical monochrome images. Despite stylistic innocence there is something delightfully cheeky in the layers of context, reference and interpretation with which he engages. This same immediacy and incisiveness is evident in the group of hand-painted ceramic sculptures exhibited alongside the drawings. They have apparent naïve simplicity and the same organic form of lightness and spontaneity. The apparent simplicity of these sculptures' forms and their vivid, colourful finishes create a *mise en scène* reminiscent of cartoons or children's toys, contrasting the challenging subject matter that underlies these works. This handmade imperfection is a product of Breuning accurate observation of reality to understand.

In 2017, the publishing house *Verlag für moderne Kunst Wien* published the book *Drawings* by Olaf Breuning. *Drawings* offers a comprehensive catalog of the drawings of Olaf Breuning made over the past 20 years. These were an integral part of and steady base for his complex work in the field of photography and video since the beginning of his artistic career.

For further information and images please contact the Galerie Nicola von Senger, info@nicolavonsenger.com