



Strychnin Gallery presents:

RELIQUARIES - New Works by Madeline von Foerster.

Curated by Yasha Young.

Opening November 12th from 7pm.

This new series of artworks grows out of the artist's fascination with reliquaries: the jewel-covered statues and treasure chests where remains of sainted persons -- from bones, to scraps of clothing, to vials of blood -- are enshrined. Old, beautiful, and mysterious, reliquaries often become objects of worship themselves. The impulse to preserve and make precious seems to represent a common human urge, spanning across many cultures, and not only confined to religion: we create reliquaries for vanquished cultures in our Natural History Museums, and living reliquaries, in the form of zoos, for animals all but extinct in the wild.

Whereas a reliquary represents the end of a worshipper's pilgrimage, von Foerster's works are an entryway to contemplation, rather than its terminus, and provoke questions rather than provide answers. Do we value things more in these contained and decorated settings than in their natural state? Why do we make such efforts to preserve what is gone, instead of living with respect for what is robust? Can we venerate the living as well as the dead, the natural rather than the supernatural?



"The Red Thread", 2010, 122 x 157cm, Oil and Egg Tempera on Panel

Born in San Francisco, Madeline von Foerster now lives in New York City. She has traveled twice to Austria to study the Old Master's mixed technique of oil and egg tempera, which she utilizes in her paintings. This will be the artist's second solo show at Strychnin Gallery Berlin. The gallery will also be presenting her work at the ART.FAIR 21 in Cologne, Oct. 28 - Nov. 1. 2010.



In the Vault: TO SLEEP LIKE GHOSTS by Brad Kunkle

Sleep is a beautiful, uninhibited state of being. Waking from a dream only to realize that it was JUST a dream is a powerful feeling and It's amazing what we can experience and learn without the laws of physics or our known reality arranging things for us. The paintings of TO SLEEP LIKE GHOSTS are about heading towards something beautiful and unknown, and allowing the natural world to take us there, not the dogmas and learned behaviors.

Brad Reuben Kunkle's world premiere one-man exhibition, *Against Nature*, was sold out opening night in April of 2010 in New York City. He has been featured in *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine, *Poets and Artists*, and on the covers of *American Art Collector* and *International Artists* magazine. Born in 1978 in a small town in Pennsylvania, he studied painting at Kutztown University. He now lives and works in New York City.

"The Alchemy of Sleep", Oil, Gold and Silver on Wood, 2010

Strychnin Gallery
Boxhagenerstr. 36
10245 Berlin
www.strychnin.com

Contact:
Miriam Bischoff
pr@strychnin.com
phone: +49 30 97 00 20 35

RELIQUARIES - New Works by Madeline von Foerster.
In The Vault: TO SLEEP LIKE GHOSTS by Brad Kunkle
Runs until December 5th.
Opening times: Thursday- Sunday 12 noon - 6 pm.