

48 hrs

Saturday and Sunday, May 25th & 26th, 13 – 21 pm

Opening: Friday, May 24th, 19 – 21.30 pm

Unusual circumstances require unusual measures:

Due to the forthcoming renovation of the building in Schröderstraße 1 imposed onto the tenants by Berggruen Holding – largely for the benefit of the holding – the gallery is forced to close its gates for a longer period of time, which means – for the gallery artists but also for the gallery itself – losing presence for an indefinite period of time, and for the artists losing the possibility of selling their art.

For all visitors of the gallery the presentation of art in Semjon's specific hanging scheme in the gallery's small cabinet rooms, as for instance its *schaulager* or its office (and often also in the other rooms), has become a valued institution, including the gallery's appearance and program. For eight years now, this concept has been a secure economic basis for the gallery's viability.

For this reason and in order to outlast the forthcoming economic draught, the two-day exhibition *48 hrs* has been launched. As a thank you for many years of loyalty for the still recurring visitors of the gallery and as an incentive to purchase, and therewith support the gallery artists, there will be a one-off sales campaign with a discount of 20 percent on all works on display. And yet another novelty is to be announced:

For the first time, the gallery owner – or artist on sabbatical – will show his own works at Semjon Contemporary. Brought to light during a complete clearance of the cellar storerooms, these artifacts illustrate the history of the place. The central *gesamtkunstwerk KioskShop berlin (KSb)*, developed gradually from 2000 to 2011, has initially formed the basis for the founding of the gallery, in connection with a series of interventions (33 exhibitions featuring artists colleagues invited by Semjon). His successful interim artwork, another *gesamtkunstwerk*, from 2010, *Konstruktion der Moderne/Constructing Modernism – Die Berliner Sammlung Dr. Carl Theodor Gottlob Grouwet (1919)/The Berlin Collection Dr. Carl Theodor Gottlob Grouwet (1919)*, has accelerated his decision to found the gallery. The architecture of the street parlor at Semjon Contemporary is a relic of this installation, referring to the retail design of the *KioskShop* behind its submitted walls.

48 hrs will be a visual concert, a symphony with contributions of all artists. By the way, some of them do not even know the original *Product Sculptures* of *KioskShop berlin* or the *Structural Drawings* of their gallerist.

The gallery will reopen at the latest on August 25th, 2019, for the opening of the exhibition of Ursula Sax – *Tanz in den Raum: Das Geometrische Ballett und andere performative Projekte (Dancing into Space – The Geometrical Ballet and other Performance Projects)*, in parallel with the premiere of the restaging of her stage play on September 6th at Radialsystem Berlin.

The openings of the solo-exhibitions of Thomas Prochnow and Dirk Rathke must presumably be postponed until after Ursula Sax' exhibition, as planning and reality on a construction site are well-known as two different worlds. Moreover, the relocated works of art cannot be appropriately reorganized and stored on this scale in such a short period of time.

May 18th, 2019,
Semjon H. N. Semjon