

Press release

Wade Guyton
Guyton \ Walker
Kelley Walker

Exhibition 24th May until 29th July 2011

Opening 24th May

Wayde Guyton (1962, Hammond, USA) and Kelley Walker (1969, Columbus, USA) both live and work in New York. The exhibition presents a selection of works - individual and in collaboration - acquired by the Gallery Guy Bärtschi since 2005.

Kelley Walker uses recycled signs and images and has a strong interest for their ways of consumption. He appropriates different pictures to highlight an iconic character, disrupt the banality and get efficiency back.

His works find his roots in commentaries on virtualization initiated by the Pop Art. For Walker there is nothing about denouncing or establishing the loss of origin and experimenting the reality. He prefers to find pertinent ways as an artist with the infinitely recycled pictures which make our reality.

Wade Guyton works with large ink-jet printers and prints directly on canvas. He plays with failures and causes imperfections ; accidents. He questions the artist definition as well as the notion of modernism. The sculpture in the exhibition suggests a motive often used by Guyton in a three-dimensional variation. He creates a non-reversible appropriation; that neither advertising, nor graphic and interior design design can appropriate.

Their collaboration under the name **Guyton \ Walker** is a kind of symbolic appropriation: they appropriate work in association within an agency. They consider this project as a full-fledged artist.

Paint Cans (from Dear Ketter hello again) refers to an artwork in the beginning of a process. *Flag* on the other hand, presented as a battle flag, is like a brand; an identification to a personal style as if they owned all these borrowed objects and pictures.

They are amongst the first artists and the most significant of their generation to be educated with postmodernism and appropriation as a reference. For them, abstraction is foremost an ensemble of reproduced pictures.