

Christiane Baumgartner: Screen Shot

8 September – 8 October 2008

Press are invited to a breakfast private view on Saturday 6 September 10am – 1pm

'Christiane Baumgartner's art is slow art, like slow cooking. It takes time to produce and it demands to be savoured and in those characteristics it seems to protest at the speed of the world. She may be fascinated by speed and enjoy the sense of liberation that accompanies it but she recognises its potential for destruction. This ambivalence lies at the heart of her work.'

Jeremy Lewison, 'At the Still Point of the Turning World'. *The Prints of Christiane Baumgartner*, 2007, published by Johan Deumens, Haarlem.

Christiane Baumgartner is best known for her monumental woodcuts based on her own films and video stills. She first came to public attention in the UK in **EAST international** in 2004 and a year later with a major solo exhibition at the **Ikon Gallery in Birmingham** (with accompanying 80-page, fully illustrated hardback catalogue). Her work is held in over 30 public collections around the world including the **Albertina, Vienna**; the **Museum of Modern Art, New York**; the **Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris** and the **Staatliche Museen zu Berlin**.

Baumgartner is particularly interested in the passage of time; much of her work takes the form of diptychs or series of images depicting the same scene, taken seconds apart. The sheer scale of these works and the fact that she prints them herself in her studio makes them some of the most exciting and ambitious prints being made today. This exhibition will include new and recent woodcuts on varying scales, many of which will be shown for the first time. *Formation I & II* shows two frames isolated from a video which depict Second World War planes (*I*) and their shadow cast on the ground (*II*). *Treffer* continues this theme of war and destruction with four images of explosions. *Brandenburg* is a smaller work made especially for the exhibition which shows one of the artist's classic images of a still from a journey on a motorway.

All these works demand viewing from a distance and yet the blurring of the horizontal lines seen close to is equally captivating. Baumgartner's work often documents time, distance and speed and yet the results are still and contemplative. It is the combination of the ancient art of woodcut with contemporary digital technology which makes her practice so innovative.

Christiane Baumgartner was born in Leipzig, Germany and studied there at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst before completing her Masters in Printmaking at the Royal College Art in London in 1999. She now lives and works in Leipzig. She has had recent solo exhibitions at the Museum für moderne Kunst, Goslar, the Kunstverein Ulm, Johan Deumens, Heemstede and the Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig. Following her exhibition at Alan Cristea Gallery, she will be exhibiting in October at the Royal College in a group show curated by Christopher Orr and has her first solo show at SPACEX gallery, Exeter, in December.

Notes to editors:

Alan Cristea Gallery is the largest dealer and publisher of 20th-century and contemporary prints in Europe, publishing prints by the very best international artists as well as regularly showing paintings, works on paper, light-boxes and installations. In 2007, the gallery expanded and is now at 31 and 34 Cork Street.

Press information: Jeanette Ward, Theresa Simon & Partners Ltd
020 7734 4800; 07729 930 812; jeanette@theresasimon.com

Visitor information: Gallery open 10-5.30 weekdays, 10-1 on Saturdays.
31 & 34 Cork Street, London W1, 020 7439 1866; www.alancristea.com; info@alancristea.com