

## NEW YORK: MARCUS RITTER GALLERY

JEAN-FRANÇOIS MORICEAU + PETRA MRZYK: ONLY FOR YOUR EYES

5 April – 24 May 2003

Walk through the door of the Marcus Ritter Gallery, and you'll find yourself catapulted into an alternate reality. In the assiduously absurd, exuberant world of French artist couple Jean-François Moriceau and Petra Mrzyk, a spellbinding installation of 120 framed drawings clamber chaotically from floor to ceiling, contort around corners and seep out across the floor. Simultaneously,

drawing breaks free from the confines of the frame and moves with abandon across the walls – all interconnected by a lightning bolt of radiant rainbow colour. This itinerant interchange of visual experience cannot help but remind us that Moriceau and Mrzyk are also accomplished animated filmmakers: each black-and-white vignette operates like a storyboard image that flows and folds into the next.

Sometimes the drawings literally speak for themselves. Anthropomorphic pictures sprout arms and legs and huddle together in darkened rooms, playing cards and counting

the days until they can fulfil their potential as bona fide works of art. Others are on strike, carrying placards saying, 'We want a new curator!' One dissident outsider cowers against the gallery wall as the silhouette of a visitor casts ominous shadows. The three-dimensional re-creation of this scene on the opposite wall encapsulates the child-like fantasy of inanimate objects magically coming to life, while at the same time articulating a desire to break away from the constraints of traditional artistic display.

Elsewhere, Moriceau and Mrzyk's bizarre humour hints at the macabre, the mysterious,

no 55

2003

contemporary 113

## REVIEWS



or the downright grotesque: a single hand appears from the surface of a lake, unobserved by an oblivious group of revellers; a decapitated man prepares a grave for his own head; a collection of forgotten nuts and bolts run frantically after a plane as it takes off; an eye stares out at us through double irises. And it wouldn't be Moriceau and Mrzyk without some tits'n'ass titillation: hairy Neanderthals shave each other's posteriors, nipples grow into lit candles and a pair of subway travellers unknowingly grip onto the giant penis of a ghost-like creature lying below. Frame by frame, these images describe a complex and all-encompassing visual universe, lying somewhere between imagination, hallucination and intuitive interpretation.

KATE ZAMET

Jean-François Moriceau + Petra Mrzyk, Only For Your Eyes (detail), 2003, installation. Courtesy: Marcus Ritter Gallery, New York