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Gert & Uwe Tobias

29.03 – 26.05.2012

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen is pleased to announce a new exhibition by Gert & Uwe Tobias in Brussels from March 29th till May 26th.

For their third solo show at the gallery, Gert & Uwe Tobias will present for the first time large wood- cuts on canvas together with collages and ceramic sculptures.

Their work contains a strong sense of biography, focusing on their origins in Transylvania, nonetheless, their range of influence also goes from Ensor to Max Ernst, from Dracula to rock music and from Malevitch to Magritte.

« Gert and Uwe Tobias are brothers, twins born in a part of Romania that most people have heard about but have never seen. A place associated, thanks to Bram Stoker and countless vampire movies, with the legend of Dracula. Their family relocated in Germany when they were twelve. But their return to Romania, when they were in their twenties, would have a decisive effect on the direction of their work. To see where their family was from, to be in the landscape, to discover a whole folkloric tradition that encompasses celebrations and bizarre costumes, handcrafts and vernacular motifs, all this engaged their imaginations and was brought to bear on their work. » Conversation with Bob Nickas, Cologne, July 9th 2006.

The woodcuts, watercolors and drawings create a sense of time that fluctuates between archaic cultural mythology and contemporary visual culture. Pictures of figures, monstrous and foreign, otherworldly and poetic, beautiful yet haunting, suggest a dark narrative. The ceramics pieces are a mix between grotesque objects and utility receptacles.

Gert and Uwe Tobias were born in Kronstadt (Brasov), Romania in 1973. They came to Germany in 1985 and currently live and work in Cologne. Their work is currently in a solo show in Kunstverein Hamburg in a group show : Print/Out at the MoMA New York and from June in a solo show at the Dresden Kuperstichkabinett.

For the last couple of years they had solo exhibitions at MoMA (NYC), Gemeentemuseum (Den Haag), Nottingham Contemporary; Kestner Gesellschaft (Hannover), Kunsthalle (Vienna) and Drawing Center (NYC).