



## MARK HOSKING

Disconnected

**Opening: 14/09/2006, 7pm**

**Exhibition: 15/09/2006 - 31/10/2006**

### Press Release

The human body defines our ergonomic relationship to the things that surround us, from the teacup to the armchair.

The art of Mark Hosking has always emphasised the obstacles and impediments of life with an inventive survivalist mentality. He works as if the decaying infrastructure of our society had finally collapsed, demanding that we make new uses for the things around us, bastardising their normal functions, distorting things into perverse new forms.

Here we bump, both mentally and physically into the metaphors of our daily routines, as if in a different universe the functions of domestic forms have been corrupted and distorted, as if they had developed in some weird Darwinian technological isolation of their own. Now morphed with new intentions the objects in Hosking-world mutate: lamp bulbs turn into oil lamps and air-bags into grow-bags.

The schoolboy and the explorer know that humans are approximately 75% water, and without hydration the functions of the human body start to collapse within 3 days. When we drink we know that our valuable dose of H<sub>2</sub>O has possibly already passed through 5 or 6 bodies like an elemental stream connecting us back to nature. Hosking parodies our relationship to our most important building block by constructing a water-body-purifier; '*Ascension Filter*'. The weight and gravity of the aggregate filled hanging shirts become bodies for cleansing bodies, like a huge human kidney filtering unwanted sediment, although the muck left inside these bodies, possibly defines the artworks own mortality.

This work echo's the levitation of figures in baroque art, like the ceiling of an Annibal Carracci fresco with the bodies falling out of the picture space. The composition reforms and distils, not just to entertain the choreography of the human image but also to replenish it.

In a world of conflict and energy crisis, Hosking delivers a warming positive irony that it could all be ok, as long as we look at and value the things around us with the importance they deserve.

Tim Stoner 2006

Mark Hosking (1971 born in Plymouth, GB) lives and works in London and Amsterdam.

Selection of solo shows: "Disconnected", VRIZA, Amsterdam (2006), "Net Gain Loss", Engholm Engelhorn Galerie, Wien (2004), Lisson Gallery, London (2004), ARTLAB 18, Imperial College, London (2002), Jerwood Gallery, London (2001).

Selection of group shows: "Inhabituel", Fabbrica del Vapore Milan (2005), "The Square Show", Bloomberg Space, London (2003), "The Gap Show. Young critical art from Great Britain", Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund (2002), "Gymnasion", Bregenzer Kunstverein, Bregenz (2001) "City Racing - A partial account", I.C.A., London (2001).

For further information please contact Kerstin Engholm or Leslie Weißgerber at +43 1 585 7337.