

# HANS SCHABUS

## Arbeiterstrandbad

**Opening: 28.06.2012, 6 pm**

**Exhibition: 29.06.2012- 08.08.2012**

### Press release

Entering the gallery, one sees the wooden objects reduced to schematic base forms, hanging symmetrically on the wall placed at eye level. The uncut outer layer shows the partly threadbare surface of the bread tree that grows in Sri Lanka out of which the pieces were cut. The objects depict "heads", whose parts are marked as blocks on the soft and fibrous wood. They are a result of a break within a process, their structural forms where planned as cursory transition which shows the moment in between abstraction and figuration. Opposed to the "heads", Hans Schabus hangs the back view of a jigsaw puzzle: a turquoise green rectangle put together out of a thousand parts, the backside is printed with a reproduction of the painting "The Tower Of Babel" by Pieter Breugel from 1563. Schabus shows the surface of the reverse side. He refuses to show the spectacular biblical motif, which is an emblematic image of manpower and a metaphor for the hubris of humankind and instead, puts the focus on the details of the abstract puzzle pieces.

Every piece signifies a small individual process within the system of creation, which becomes visible on the backside of the jigsaw puzzle. In addition, one missing puzzle piece emphasizes the fragility within a system for the pursuit of building something up.

A revised study of a fist presents a similar oscillation process between abstraction and figuration as well as form and content. Similarly, the moment of tension in the symbolic gesture of a fist is reviewed.

The artist breaks down and repaints the composition of a fist in its individual parts in order to question the symbolic power of this gesture and prepares for the conversion into an abstract three dimensional form. This is opposed to the process behind the heads which leads from the figuration to the abstraction.

One hundred years ago, the "Wiener Arbeiterstrandbad" was opened at the Alte Donau. It was created as a place which combines work and leisure time, as a symbol that both concepts should be available to all people. The discussion between figuration and abstraction is almost as old and Hans Schabus illustrates that neither negates or works against the other. Instead both concepts are comprised within the material and determine the other.

**Hans Schabus** (\*1970 in Watschig) in between january and february Hans Schabus was invited to stay for a residency on Sri Lanka by One World Foundation ,solo exhibitions: "Vertikale Anstrengung", 21er Haus (Vienna, Wien, 2012), "The Space of Conflict", Culturgest (Vienna, 2011), "Nichts geht mehr", IAC Villeurbanne (Villeurbanne, 2011), „Remains of the day“ , Collective (Edinburgh, 2011), "Next time I am here, I will be there", The Curve - Barbican Art Center (London, 2008), "Deserted Conquest", Site Santa Fe (Santa Fe 2007), "Innere Sicherheit" Kasseler Kunstverein (Kassel, 2006), "Das Rendezvousproblem" Kunsthaus Bregenz (Bregenz, 2004), "Astronaut (komme gleich)", Secession (Vienna, 2003); group exhibitions such as "Making is Thinking", Witte de With (Rotterdam 2011), "I repeat myself when under stress" Moca Detroit (Detroit, 2008), "Das letzte Land", Venedig Biennale (Venice, 2005).