

**For immediate  
release**

**Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler**

*House with Pool*

23 October - 2 December 2004

Opening Reception: Saturday, 23 October, 6 to 8pm

Tanya Bonakdar Gallery is very pleased to present Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler's third solo show with the gallery. The exhibition features *House with Pool*, the artists' most elaborate video to date, together with new related photographic series. *House with Pool* furthers the artists' investigation of the profound interdependence between architecture and narrative, character and environment, psychic and physical space. Precise camera and audio work construct a suspenseful, dramatic narrative loop where the viewer encounters a visual reordering of space that constitutes the emotional inside as physical outside and vice versa.

In *House with Pool*, a party is over, a house sits quiet, a woman is absorbed in thought. She moves through the house and all its objects, the evening's empty glasses and left-over hors d'oeuvres. Simultaneously a younger woman moves through the night and all its objects: forest trees, manicured lawns, untraceable sounds. The younger woman enters the house; the older woman is unaware of her trespass. There are parallels between the two, but their relationship is uncertain, and their paths - at least here - do not coincide. They are instead drawn together through the items that they pass back and forth to each other and through a repetition of gestures: a hand turns a tap in the shower, a hand turns a knob on a door; a sweater is removed and folded, the sweater is picked up by the other woman and put on; one woman stares in through the window, the other peers from within the house to the dark outside; one woman begins to play a piano composition, the other woman finishes it.

Hubbard/Birchler use the house, a prime example of high modernist architecture, as a camera that "sees" and reciprocally, "is seen" by the outside world as a metaphor for the women's psychological states and their relationship to each other. The piano composition played by both women creates an all-encompassing soundtrack, contributing to the work's mysterious *mise-en-scène*. *House with Pool*, installed in the main gallery space, signifies a culmination of Hubbard/Birchler's effort over recent years to explore social struggles where the everyday and ordinary is infused with a sense of wonder and the uncanny. Earlier video works such as *Single Wide*, *Eight* and *Detached Building* have presented concise, tightly articulated episodes where scripting and camera work play with Le Corbusier's proposition "Le dehors est toujours un dedans," (the outside is always an inside). *House with Pool* continues and extends the project, resulting in a visually rich and conceptually layered meditation on the cinematic medium.

As an introduction to the exhibition, the entrance gallery features a single diptych, titled *She*. The photographs, taken during the production of the film, feature the two main characters and emphasize the ambiguity of the women's relationship to one another.

In the small gallery, a selection of photographs taken on the set of *House with Pool* reinforces the structural and psychological environment the artists produced in the video. The photographs are essentially still lifes of objects that remain after a party, and within these details each photograph possesses a narrative of its own. The minimal installation seems to evoke the architecture

of the house, and establishes a positioning that both connects the viewer to the women in the video and subtly places the viewer within the house's walls.

Through 22 October, Hubbard/Birchler's video *Single Wide* is on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria. Other current exhibitions include *3': Condensed information*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; *Take 5*, Huis Marseille Foundation for Photography, Amsterdam and *Ein-Leuchten*, Museum der Moderne Salzburg. Other recent exhibitions include *House with Pool*, Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel; *Video Dreams: between the cinematic and theatrical*, Kunsthaus Graz; ArtPace Foundation for Contemporary Art, San Antonio; *Wild Walls*, Museen Haus Lange/Haus Esters, Krefeld; Huis Marseille, Foundation for Photography, Amsterdam; Kunstverein St. Gallen Kunstmuseum; and Kunsthalle zu Kiel; and *Out of Place: Contemporary Art and the Architectural Uncanny*. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. Upcoming solo exhibitions include *Editing the Dark*, The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City and survey exhibitions at the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain and the Modern Museum Fort Worth. Hubbard/Birchler's work will also be presented on the upcoming season program, *Art in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* on PBS.