

Strychnin Gallery
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DANIEL VAN NES

Strychnin Gallery Berlin presents:

Fallen Angels – New works by Daniël van Nes

Also featuring Virginie Ropars + Marina Bychkova and Cliff Wallace

Opens December 12th at 7 p.m., runs until February 1st 2009

The exhibition will go until February 1st and the opening times are Thursday through Friday from 1 pm until 6 pm, until 7 pm on Saturdays Closed for Christmas break from Dec. 21st until January 19th

The real replaced by the virtual, oversaturation through the media and the ever-present TV screens with marketing messages that seep into our lives and dreams not unlike religious slogans – these are the themes of Dutch artist Daniël van Nes' new series of work. Playing with religious imagery and mixing it up with suband underground cultures, the characters in his work are angels expelled from the Garden who find themselves utterly alone in their fall.

Daniël van Nes, who was educated at the Royal Academy of Arts in Antwerp, Belgium, originally was a painter. Looking for a challenge, he ended up making wood engravings using a centuries-old technique, and then decided to turn to a decidedly modern medium: plexiglass. The result of his meticulously crafted work – he often spends over a month working on a single piece of relatively small size – can only be seen by use of light. His technique has sometimes been described as "light engraving". Using antique glass domes that were once used to store dried flowers or other memorabilia, he builds lamps that have a magical effect: you can only see the image they contain when you turn them on.

His latest series of works is a collection of fallen and falling angels who lose their wings, one feather at a time or with one good jerk. Van Nes' fascination with the dawn of the Industrial Age and how it changed society forever is reflected in imagery inspired by the Victorians but paired with machinery and strange apparatuses that could come straight out of a Jules Vernes story, a sort of futurism as imagined in the 19th century. His characters are trying to protect what is dear to them while slowly but surely losing hold of it, just as it is getting harder and harder to make out truth and reality in a world that is becoming more virtual every day. Advertising is the new religion, replacing meaning with empty slogans and religious icons with brand logos – van Nes' work is about confession and absolution in a world where Gods and angels are replaced by marketing rules, his consumer criticism is hidden within ancient-looking frames and real antique containers.