



Salon of Momentum Gallery, Berlin, in March, 2012

Statement

Steve Schepens (*1979 Ghent, Belgium; lives and works in Berlin) has recently started a new series of works beside his known HORROR series (all previous works of the artist were entitled HORROR with an additional number or subtitle). Nevertheless, the idea of a contemporary man being lost in the labyrinth of meaning and icons as well as the impossibility for the spectator to find any access to the meaning of an artwork – keep on preoccupying him. Moreover, the intertextual nature of Schepens' work, his fascination with philosophy along with high-brow and pop-culture receive even more obvious manifestation in his choice of titles. They are ironic and unexpected. At times, onlooker has to make a long journey through a sematic labyrinth to find the hidden Minotaur of a meaning.

If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen (2012) is an artwork presented by Momentum Gallery, Berlin. This work is inspired by Schepens' personal history and fascination with cooking; it refers to his biological father, a Belgian chef, who died short after his birth, as well as to some art historical father figures.

The main ingredient of the dish which Schepens is cooking together with the specially invited curator David Elliott will be blue mussels. Obviously referring to *The Triumph of Mussels I* by Marcel Broodthaers, Steve Schepens continues to dwell on the Belgian identity, the concept of the mould (moule in French also means mould). Just as Broodthaers, Schepens uses traditional sculpture techniques to represent the emptiness of the art object. The artist works with signs and icons of contemporary society. In his works, and also in the previous performance with Michelin star chef Bo Bech entitled Blue Mussel Binge Drinking, he points out subjectivity, emptiness and fragility of these signs and shows the instability of a seemingly stiff society and the connected HORROR state of contemporary man.

Technical rider

1. Space and Venue

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen (2012) is an art work which includes a new blue mussel dish, a cooking performance and an interview with curator David Elliott. It will be happening at the Salon of Momentum Gallery, Berlin, in March, 2012

2. The Blue Mussel dish

David Elliott is invited by Steve Schepens to cook together and compose a new dish consisting of main ingredient blue mussel, it will be presented as an art work. This dish/artwork can be savoured at the Salon and by a selected audience. The composition of the dish is a performance and will be photographed (and recorded on video).

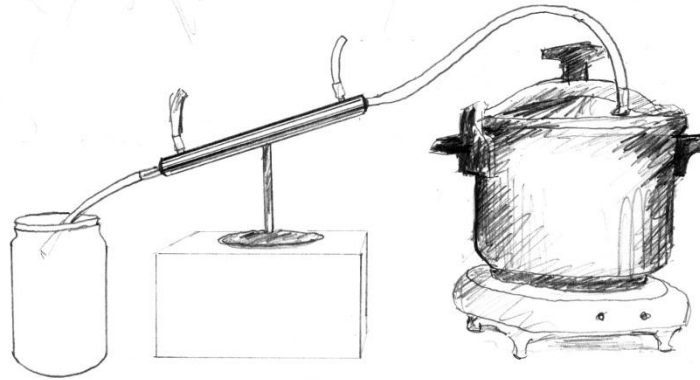
3. The interview

During the cooking process the artist will conduct an interview with David Elliott about his work as Artistic Director of the first Biennale of Contemporary Art in Kiev, Ukraine.



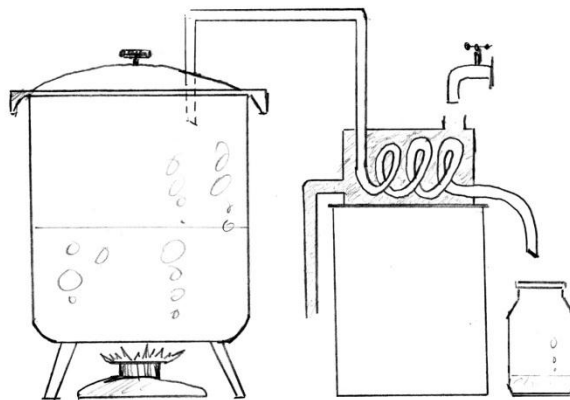
Mussel pots





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