

## IDYLLS

Sonja Draub // Berit Hummel

7 September through 3 October 2007 (Wed.-Sat. 2-7 p.m.)

Artists' talk: 15 September, 5 p.m.

Idylls in all their forms have appeared in artistic activity since ancient times: Arcadias, paradises and feelings of warmth and happiness have often been yearned for, tarnished, broken and treated ironically.

**Sonja Draub** (b. 1975) explores the idyllic in the artist's existence, with all the clichés that go along with it. To this day we still attempt in vain to approach the myth of the artist by portraying the productive environment in which he lives and works. The studios of celebrities such as Francis Bacon, Georg Baselitz and Bruce Nauman, which have long circulated in the media, are presented by Draub in watercolors next to snapshots of her own studio. Draub's conscious omissions and stylizations are simultaneously transfiguring and frustrating, as ultimately one learns less about the lives and identities of others than about one's own expectations and projections.

**Berit Hummel** (b. 1975) stages actions and performances and works with film, photography and installations. In her latest piece, she transposes the typical behavior patterns of the Western into the milieu of the contemporary office building, choosing two men in suits as her protagonists. In her episodically structured video projection, the masculine rituals of rivalry end in emptiness rather than a decision between good and evil. The stereotypical urban environment is revealed as an artificial idyll, an unkept promise of nature.

[Carla Orthen]