

BUCHMANN GALERIE BERLIN

SEAN DAWSON - SILENT GLITCH - Paintings
November, 26, 2005 - January 28, 2006



In his recent works Sean Dawson betrays little about the origins of the peculiar visual worlds that sometimes seem strangely technoid, sometimes biomorphic, lying somewhere between the visual language of David Cronenberg and that of *Alice in Wonderland*, or between Rorschach tests opened up among the paintings and a mixture of somber tattoos.

A condensate of disparate photographs that serves as models for the paintings – images of modernist architecture, for example – establishes the basis for Sean Dawson's pictorial invention. Over several stages, each of which is photographed, the original model is mechanically distorted, broken up, and put back together again in new constellations before being overpainted in multiple layers. For Dawson, the breaking up and sampling of a model refers to the structure of digital, technological image generation.

The often three-dimensional pictorial models repeatedly bring Dawson back to the plane, as a result of being photographed and then transferred to painting on canvas. The utterly flat and perfect pictorial surface reinforces the illusionistic sense of space, where the paintings achieve their own visual reality, which bizarrely seems both hyperrealistic and dreamily kaleidoscopic. The viewer plunges into an immediate visual world of nonrealistic motifs.

Sean Dawson (b. 1964) lives and works in London. He completed his education at Saint Martins College of Art and Design and at the Royal College of Art. *Silent Glitch* is the artist's first substantial exhibition in Germany.