

Exhibition ZILLA LEUTENEGER

January-April 2004

The series UNTITLED (Stills From Löwenzahn) & UNTITLED (Heads)



Work from the series of four: *UNTITLED (Stills from Löwenzahn)*, 2002, Color Lambda prints on Aluminium, 40 x 50cm each, Ed. 1/3 + 1AP + 1EP

These two series are visually representing different art fields and genres, but at a closer look, they seem to speak the same language. The series "Untitled (stills from Löwenzahn)" are taken from a video showing the artist in a kind of battle between herself and her work. This series takes up a theme which has been discussed from the early ages of the Ancient Greeks up to today and whose significance and importance have not diminished: What is more real? Life or its abstraction? As a matter of fact the artist is facing her own work, which seems to be as real as she is – but at the same time her work is her own destruction and erasure. "Untitled (Heads)" is a series of self portraits made of Gouache. Although the portraits are figurative the way they are made is highly abstracted. Standing too near to the drawing, or focusing only on a small part of a drawing one cannot make out the whole image. The size, as

well as the way of dividing an image into black and white parts are tools for gaining abstraction. Insofar both series are an investigation of the relation between the real and its representation. In both series the integration of the self into the artistic work is an actualization of a long existing tradition which has become renewed by the media video: Bodily, or acting experimentations are very private experiences made in an artist's studio, but become extremely public and vulnerable by leaving the privacy of the studio and being exhibited. KF