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Shannon Bool

It takes a year to make a day  
10.09 – 23.10.2004

The title of the exhibition in Karlsruhe “it takes a year to make a day” stems from the band The Flaming Lips and indirectly indicates Shannon Bool’s working process: the sampling of different historical epochs to build a new perceptual plane in the present. Representation and meaning are interwoven in her collages and wall drawings which result in complex ornaments. The wall drawings are a result of precise preparation: for example the manipulation of wall paper to create an illusionistic distortion. Another example is the superimposition of different colours and tones with pencil and felt markers which create an ornamental impact. The starting point for Shannon Bool’s wall drawing in Karlsruhe was two Renaissance paintings from the dutch painters Petrus Christus and Jan van Eyck. Her interest focuses on a detail, the spacial construction: both artists had painted a version of the same carpet. As an abstracted representation of the carpet, which meets at the corner of two walls, the bizarre interaction between the illusionistic surface and perspective of the real space is reinforced by the imitation wood floor sculpture that connects the walls to the floor. Shannon Bool’s new collages made with found paper, book bindings, and leather paperboard serve as material background for drawings and paintings from single motifs from art history and everyday life. For example a steward from Ryan Air stands before the atmospheric background of a Hans Baldung painting, or two waltzing Victorian women are transposed in a landscape from Hieronymus Bosch. Translating these references into her own distinctive language, the construction of her pictures is always visible. Between analytical reflections and emotional fascination, Shannon Bool shows in her work the possibility of new, unknown pictorial space.