

## Art and science III

## Reiner Maria Matysik – Failed Organisms

Opening: Freitag, 29. August 2008, 20h

Exhibition dates: 30.08.-28.09.2008, Sat/Sun 2-6pm and by appointment

Artist's talk: Sunday, 31.08.2008, 5pm

Tour of the exhibition: Sunday, 28.09.2008, 3pm

The Berlin artist Reiner Maria Matysik (born 1967, Duisburg, Germany) works in manifold ways with concepts for future organisms. In the course of the last years he has created his own new system of post-evolutionary life forms at the borderline between art and biology. In his installations, videos, actions and publications the term "biological sculpture", coined by Matysik himself, plays a vital role.



Within the last years Matysik has developed prototypes for future life forms. These models were systematically collected and classified according to their qualities (size, weight, sex, extremities, needs, way of life, etc.). In his publication WESEN (BEING), which was published by Gutleut in Frankfurt/ Main in 2007, he presents the so-called inoculi (eyeless ones),

the leucobionts and several forms of the micro-organisms, all invented by himself. On the basis of microbiology and Carl Linneaus' system of classification, Matysik invents a new form of iconography with powerful aesthetic qualities

As part of the exhibition series "Art and Science" Matysik will show, in his exhibition *Failed Organisms*, newly produced **prototype models for future organisms**. In contrast to their predecessors, which promised new viable qualities as phenotypes of new life, the ones in *Failed Organisms* are very weak and therefore doomed to failure. In strong contrast to this concept of failure, which is already mirrored by the exhibition title, is the video **biofakte** (2008): here the hopeful proclamation of future forms of life predicts a brave new world of unknown seminal and viable organisms. Other works by Matysik also question the area of conflict between the utopian hopes and failures of a biotechnological future.



There are essential artistic strategies both in the visual implementation, e.g. the aesthetic quality of the objects, and in its linguistic form, e.g. the specific lexic of the discription of his prototypes. With these strategies Matysik inscribes himself in the space between the scholarly world of biotechnology and one of pseudoscientific fiction.

-Regine Rapp

**Reiner Maria Matysik**, born 1967, in Duisburg, Germany | [www.reinermatysik.de](http://www.reinermatysik.de) | **Selected Solo Exhibitions** **2008** *Biofakte* Museum König, Bonn **2007** *Wesen und Utopie* Kunstverein Wolfenbüttel **2006** *Bethanien für alle* Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin **2005** *Hätten Sie gerne eine biologische oder eine philosophische Antwort?* Galerie Heimspiel, Frankfurt am Main **Selected Group Exhibitions** **2008** *Trennwände* Kunstraum Düsseldorf **2007** *Macht des Dinglichen, Skulptur heute* Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin **2006** *Winterschlaf* Galerie Detterer, Frankfurt am Main **2005** *Park, Zucht und Wildwuchs in der Kunst* Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden | *Put on Your Blue Genes* Neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst NGBK, Berlin