

Ernst Fischer: **Greedy Fish**

November 9th - December 5th 2012

Malraux's Place is pleased to present *Greedy Fish*, an exhibition of new work by Ernst Fischer to open on November 9th. It will be the gallery's inaugural exhibition, as well as the first solo exhibition in New York City by the artist.

Anyway... Say there exists a venn diagram to chart the overlap between the auratic and the fetishistic. The creamy cartouche in the center of said diagram would frame capital's mobilization our primeval impulses. This is the ovoid space where the bricoleur becomes a freelancer, where creativity gives way to "creative types", and where we wonder how the Ryman is performing against the dollar. With that in mind, here is a statement from the artist:

Representation is never proportional. We might agree the goldfish in our bowls have limited agency. They and their kin have achieved little in the way of subjecthood. However, if an object be merely an insufficiently understood subject, we can bestow subjecthood on our fellow fish at the price of becoming objects ourselves. The de facto parliament of things has naturalized competition. A fish's sovereignty hinges on the relinquishment of our own. Hopefully this giving up is performed with a child-animist's pleasure, as we anthropomorphize to the point of becoming quite beside ourselves.

We are living the dream. All representation at best still amounts to a rearranging of father Freud's "determinatives". Before the current wave of image economists and pictures generation progeny stretches a land of serene calm and transparency, where the opaque fraternizes with the luminescent in a crystal palace of refracted surfaces. It is a place they would rather not venture, for fear of things being taken out of their hands. But all their fidgeting merely covers for this inability to capitulate; as we are all ushered into the soundproof room behind the large one-way mirror, from where we watch the interrogation proceeding next door. We pause our rhizomatous-baroque dance and look on as all subjects are transformed into objects, and all objects tread a whole new path toward individuation. It is an astounding egress from the circular mazes through which we've bumbled for the last 140 odd years.

What if, it remains to ask, the fish got greedy? It is much as uncle William was fond of saying: "Casual curses are the most effective."¹

¹ William S. Burroughs, *The Western Lands* (Viking, 1987), 46.