

## Press Release

**Michel François | Déjà-vu**

**January 20 – March 20, 2004, Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

We are pleased to announce the presentation of Michel François' new work, "Déjà-vu (newspaper)".

Since the 1980s, Michel François has made himself known for a unique working method. Starting from his sculptural approach, he developed a very personal access to photography and installation, which allows him to place his artistic material in ever-new systems of reference and to create an extremely complex oeuvre.

Among his most important recent solo presentations were the exhibitions in the Espace Vox, Quebec, Canada; in the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna, Italy; in the Westfälischen Kunstverein Münster; and in the Ursula-Blickle-Stiftung, Kraichtal.

He had noteworthy appearances in the Kunsthalle Bern and in the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2000); at the 48th Venice Biennial (1999), where he represented Belgium; at the Istanbul International Biennial (1997); and in the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam (1997). In May of this year, the De Pont Foundation for Contemporary Art in Tilburg, The Netherlands, will present Michel François in a solo exhibition.

Michel François created "Déjà-vu (newspaper)" in September 2003 during his stay as a Professor in the Research Program of the CCA, Center of Contemporary Art, in Kitakyushu, Japan.

Steady dripping drowns the daily newspaper on the table in ink. Exactly the same scenario is given again through a doorway in the wall. Like Alice through the looking glass, we are in a position to enter the space beyond the limits of our perception – and, unlike Alice, we see that it does not differ from this side in the slightest.

Once more, Michel François conducts research in the field of perception and its limits. As a truly contemporary sculptor, he works on the relationship between inside and outside, between real and mental volumes. In the precisely placed groupings of objects, he presents the observer with the setup for an experiment on the case of "déjà-vu" – and by means of the observer's active presence, opens up the spectrum to an endless cycle on spatial, temporal, physical, and mental levels.

Michel François, born in 1956, lives and works in Brussels.

Sebastian Diaz Morales | A K Dolven | Michel François | Meschac Gaba | Hans Hemmert | Jonathan Hernández | Thomas Huber | Marko Lehanka | Julie Meheretu | Aernout Mik | Santu Mofokeng | Jean-Luc Moulène | Paul Pfeiffer | Peter Pommerer | Bojan Sarcevic | Erik Schmidt | Christian Schumann | Thomas Schütte | Fred Tomaselli | Sophie Tottie | Janaina Tschäpe | Luc Tuymans | Mark Wallinger