

CHRISTOPH RÜTIMANN*Venice in a boat – Geneva**And paintings*

Skopia gallery, Geneva, 13.11 – 23.12.2010

Born 1955 in Lucerne, Swiss artist Christoph Rütimann works and lives in Mühlheim, Thurgau. His oeuvre is varied: painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, music, installations, performances and video are all part of his work.

Throughout his efforts, the artist ponders his relationship with space, which he covers, invades, reflects or even captures and devours. Similar to his previous videos entitled “Handlauf” (handrail) where the camera pierces and blends the landscape, reaching out to the surroundings with a constant aim towards one focal point that is never reached, the video *Venice in a boat - Geneva* offers us a visual and acoustic exploration of the Venetian canals from a new angle. The camera sits, slightly askew, on the rim of a boat and takes the onlooker on a speedy and vertiginous ride along the canals of Venice, whooshing over the water’s surface and exploring the lines and links between perception, space and site.

In addition to the video, Rütimann’s paintings highlight and reflect their environment in a simple and direct way. With precise gestures, limiting composition, avoiding any parasitic pathos, he smears bright industrial colors on both glass and canvas before uniting the two. The color fills and hides the background surface and structure, while the glass drastically filters and exacerbates the hues, intensifying our perception.

This exhibition is presented after *Venice in a boat – Lucerne* and *Venice in a boat – Berlin*, both realized earlier on this year as part of a major project that aims to show the video in four cities located near water and then showing the four different boats united as one unique installation. *Venice in a boat – Zurich* will take place in 2011.