

# L A L E H J U N E G A L E R I E

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Basel, April 2009**

## **PASCAL ROBERT**

*Portraits – Before and Beyond the Image*

**April 23 – May 23, 2009**

**Opening Reception**

**Thursday, April 23, 2009**

**6 – 8 pm**

**Finissage**

**Thursday, May 21, 2009**

**6 – 8 pm**

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**Picassoplatz 4**

**Basel 4052**

**Opening hours**

**Tue – Fri 1 – 6 pm**

**Sat 12 – 5 pm**

Laleh June is pleased to present the first solo exhibition by the Swiss born artist Pascal Robert ( born in Bern 1978 - french-swiss / vietnamese parents - lives and works in Geneva and Berlin ) at Laleh June Galerie, Basel. Robert in his striking abstract portraits explores issues of identity and processes of image-making that have particular relevance for an age of instant communication. After completing his studies at Geneva University of Art and Design ( HEAD / ESBA ) his works were last exhibited at the Kunsthalle Bern in Bern, at the Kunstmuseum Thun in Thun and at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts in Bishkek in 2008.

*Portraits – Before and Beyond the Image* features a powerful line up of drawing, collage, video and video still.

Pascal Robert's abstract, large-format monochrome drawings are all portraits of real people. By entering into an intensive "dialogue" with the individuals depicted, and using countless sketches and drafts, the artist develops a reduced code of colours and forms which mirrors the subject of the piece in narrative abstraction. Robert picks up on human existence and our interpretations of others and ourselves, and makes them abstract and concrete in equal measure in a kind of collage of geometric structures. The peaceful and sublime nature of East Asian landscape painting and calligraphy is inherent in all the pieces while at the same time they possess dramatic expressivity.

Robert's collages ( *New Heritage II* ), the black and white portrait photographs of elegant ladies from the 1930's and 40's are partly covered over by white sheets of paper in the form of precisely aligned, geometrical structures and principally rectangles. Through the individual works and, indeed, through the presentation of the exhibition itself, Pascal Robert has, by adding space and by removing it, taken a stance on the relationship between modern architecture and the individual, between abstraction and individuality.

According to Robert, « my aim thereby has been to understand the essence of the fascination for biographies and societal portraits in the sense of shifting identities, and thereby to realise in visual form these conclusions on identity formation and on our personal relationship with our historical inheritance ».

**The opening will be on Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 6 to 8 p.m.** You are cordially invited to meet with the artist. We are pleased to provide you with visual material on request ( [info@lalehjune.com](mailto:info@lalehjune.com) ).

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the exhibition and thank you for your interest.

Laleh June Galerie