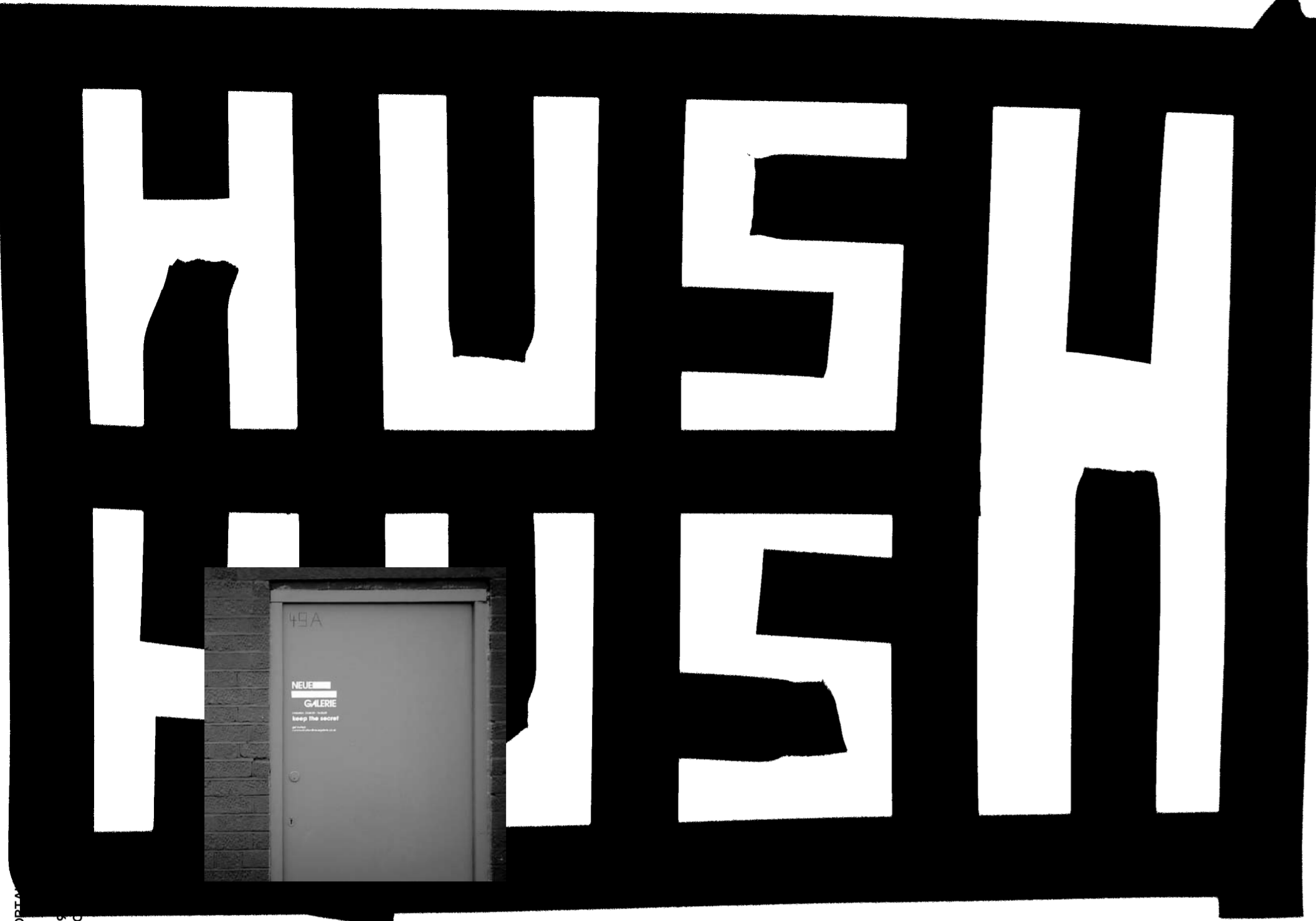




LONDON
23.04.—
14.05.09

The Neue Galerie literally breaks with boundaries and presents an exhibition of contemporary Swiss artists dealing with a highly sensitive subject.



EDITORIAL
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In East End London, the centre of innovative and exciting art, a young group of artists from Switzerland delivered a refreshing example of artistic progression.

The theme of the exhibition was secrets, and no word could more aptly describe the Neue Galerie on London's Vyner Street. The new establishment's curators threw open the doors to a discerning crowd of art lovers and critics. On display were works by seven Swiss artists, whose treatments on contemporary issues of secrecy and privacy herald a unique approach to tackling social degradation through the medium of art.

Privacy rights have been a hot topic in recent headlines: as Facebook gathers information about our relationships, so Google tracks our whereabouts and offers a street-level peek at our homes and bedroom windows. The repeal of Switzerland's banking secrecy laws is yet another step along the road to privacy elimination.



Rather than railing against the virtual publication of our personal details, these contemporary artists present a riddle in each of their works, a throwback to the cherished need for secrecy. The characters in Ivan Ebel's oil paintings, display troubled, seemingly grief-stricken expressions, leaving the viewer to guess at the origins of their anguish.

As Charles Baudelaire wrote in his treatise *Le Peintre de la Vie Moderne*, art is a process

of reflection, a merging of the artist's intentions with the spectator's inner perceptions. When faced with Sebastien Verdon's Digital Portraits², the viewer's introspective process kicks in, and we are left mulling over the darker side of our own secrets.



This exhibition is proof that motivation for art can be found in any topic. Moreover, artistic responses to changes in society need not fit a prescribed mould. A well-planned

exhibition should challenge the mind and provoke the senses (aesthetic as well as emotional). By reaching across the varied mediums of oil, digital and installation art, *Keep The Secret* succeeded in both.

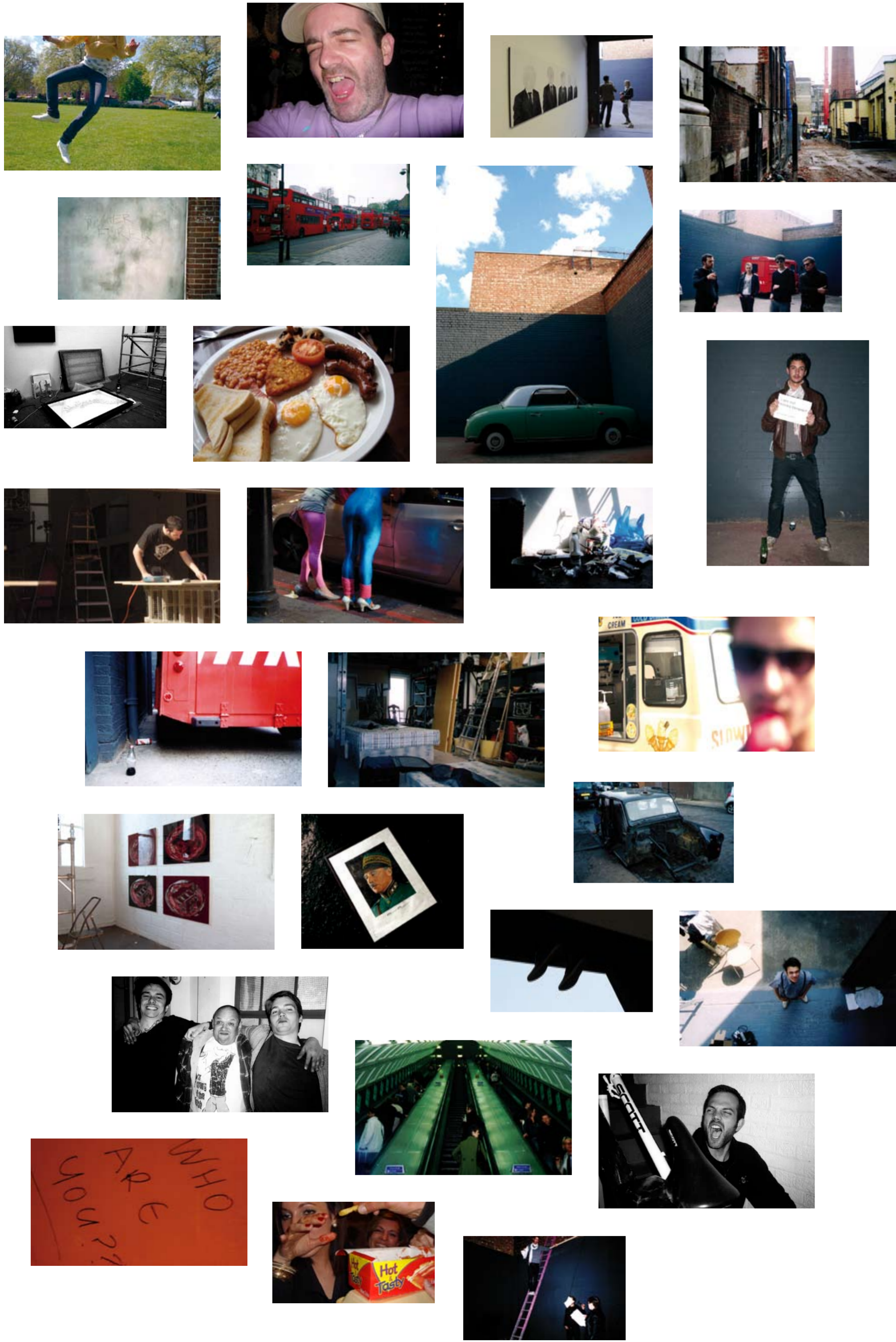
The gallery itself is situated in an unimposing building on the artistic highway of London.

Gallery visitors and artists alike tour refurbished warehouses housing some of the most intriguing art in the East End. Afterwards, spectators, journalists and artists gather in the alley's old Victorian pub³ to contemplate and debate artistic themes.

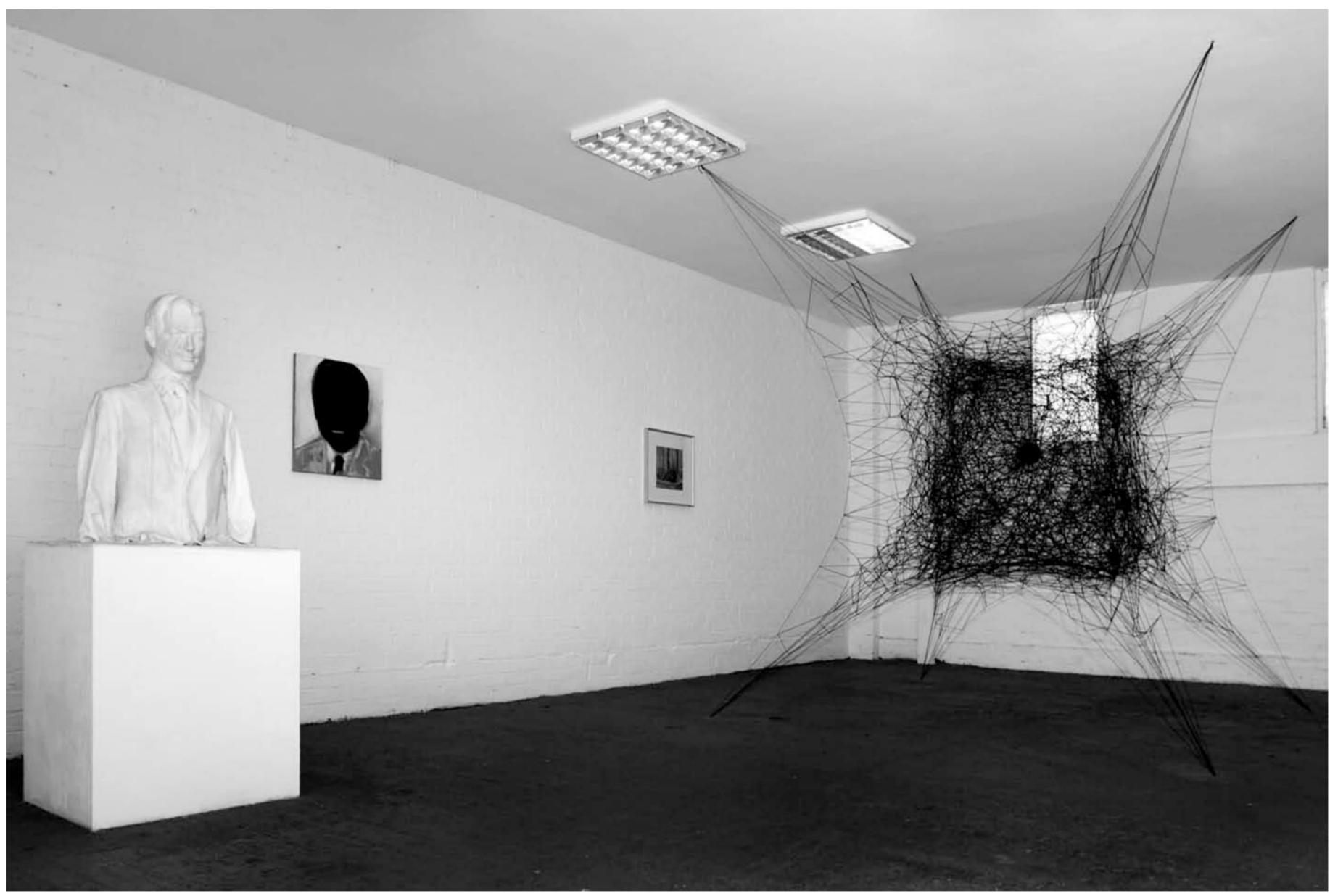
Nowhere else in London could attract such an uninhibited, bold and adventurous group of artistic merit. The *Neue Galerie* and its neighbours propose a glimpse into a new realm of exciting art designed for the modern gallery visitor, set apart from the mundane offerings of Central London.



BUILDING HOSTING THE NEUE GALERIE,
SITUATED IN EAST LONDON'S VYNER STREET



WATERGATE, RENAUD LODA
OIL ON CANVAS, 40 x 50



WHITE WASH, RENAUD LODA
WHITE CHOCOLATE, 174 x 53 x 68



VIEW OF THE COURT YARD



TWO OF THE EXHIBITION ROOMS RESEMBLE
OLD FIREFIGHTER HANGARS

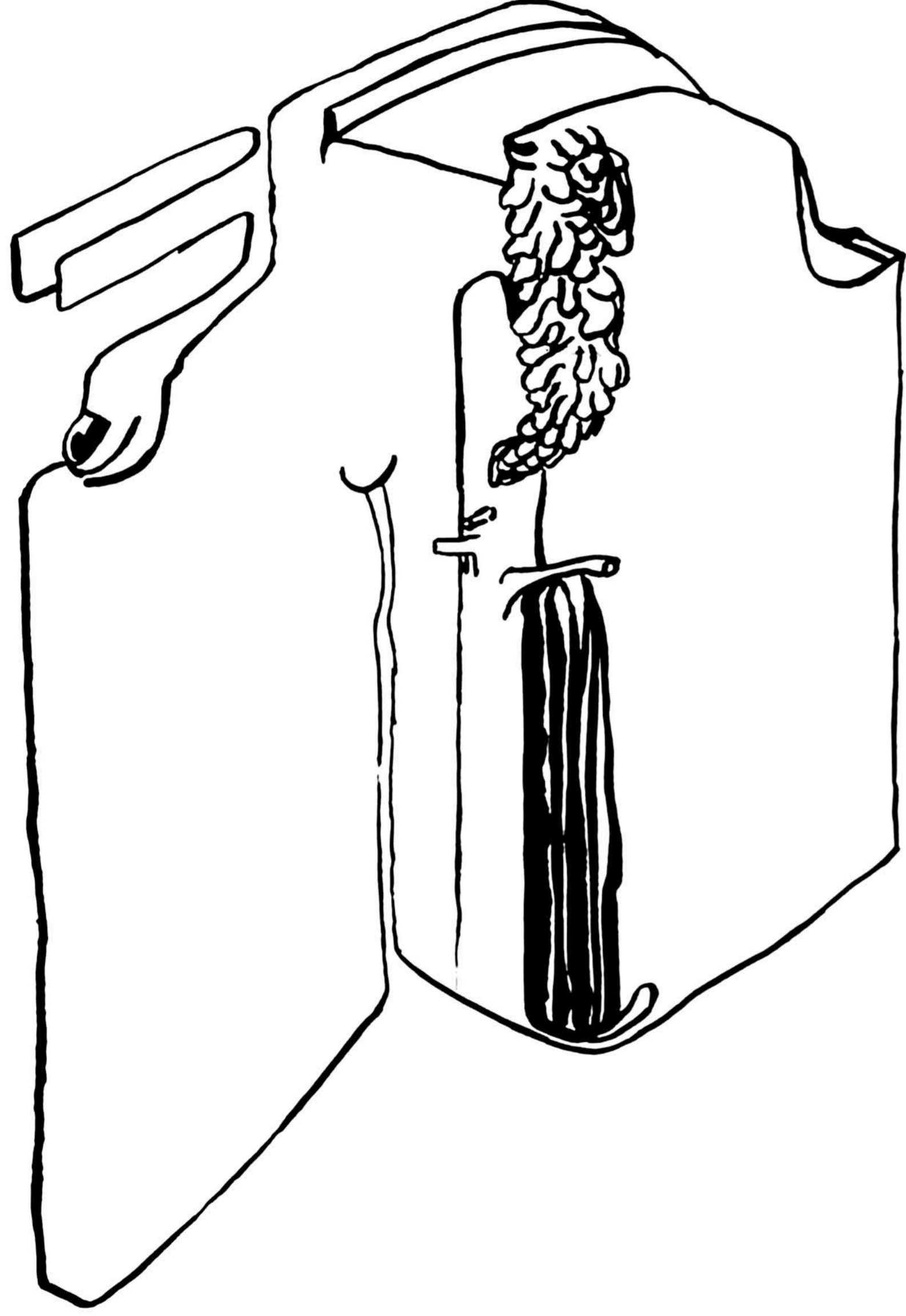
KEEP THE SECRET, SEBASTIEN VERDON
1.500 m BLACK THREAD, 250 x 250 x 250



JERRY CAN, JONAS LETTER
BURNED SUGAR, 33.5 x 32 x 14

RIGUEUR ET TRADITION, IVAN EBEL/RENAUD LODA
ACRYLIC ON WALL, 150 x 150

NO TITLE, JONAS ETTER
INDIA INK ON PAPER, 30 X 50



JERRY CAN, JONAS ETTER
BURNED SUGAR, 33.5 X 32 X 14



SI JE MENS JE VAIS EN ENFER, IVAN EBEL
OIL ON CANVAS, 170 X 140



ROCK BOTTOM, JOHANNA SCHAIBLE
FINE LINER ON PAPER INSIDE LIGHT BOX, 160 X 110

NEU

GAE R E

COLOPHONE

Keep the Secret
23.04. - 14.05.2009

With works by
Tarek Abu Hageb
F. Bonadea Cocon
Ivan Ebel
Jonas Etter
Renaud Loda
Johanna Schaible
Sebastien Verdon

Exhibition currated by
Luca Müller &
Sandino Scheidegger

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