

Press Release     **OUT OF THE BLUE**  
**27.06.08 - 30.08.2008**     Aus heiterem Himmel

**James Benning, Paco Fernández, Thomas Florschuetz, Kuno Gonschior, Caroline von Grone, Mary Heilmann, François Morellet, Bruce Nauman, François Perrodin, Arnulf Rainer, Günter Umberg, Elisabeth Vary, Caroline von Grone, Peter Wegner**

The German idiom 'aus heiterem Himmel' and the English 'out of the blue' are quite close to each other in terms of their literal meaning. The word 'Himmel' signifies 'sky' or 'heaven' while the colour 'blue' alludes to the latter and vice versa.

However, the German version adds an important detail, which is conveyed in the word 'heiter', meaning not only bright and clear, but also carefree, cheerful, smiling...If something happens out of the blue, it stands in opposition to the happy state before. There is a rupture, sudden change, serious momentum. The saying signifies it in a slightly ironical and sometimes even bitter taste, and is thus used to express dramatic incidents. However, at the same time there remains the lighter version insofar as what comes out of a hopeful blue can also transmit something of precisely that so to speak blue hope: childlike naivety or creative simplicity. Both allude to the blue sky in a metaphorical sense as the sky's endless space signifies ideas such as eternity, infinity, and mental openness – receptivity.

Thus, the title 'Out of the blue' gained a very special life on its own. Less in terms of its literal aspects, but rather in the sense of becoming open for unexpected happenings, senses, pictures or relations - a kind of freeness, a sort of expedition towards the yet unknown.

A curator's perspective is often dominated by all too clear concepts and bound to a long history of programmatic concepts of art institutions. In consequence, there can be nothing more exciting for a gallery than an unexpected change of the curatorial perspective. This came to be the most refreshing, important experience.

The exhibition refers to both the English as well as German literal meaning (Blue|Himmel), as well as to the idiomatic sense of 'Out of the Blue' and 'Aus heiterem Himmel', which describes something either as extremely positiv|funny or rather negativ|critical *surprise*.