

# GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESS RELEASE

## JOHN ARMLEDER

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AUGUST 22 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

John Armleder (b. 1948) is showing a group of recent 'Puddle Paintings'. This series initiated at the same time as the 'Pour Paintings' in the early '80s. Both series depict strategies of covering a surface, in this case a stretched canvas, with most often non-miscible paints activating instant chemical reactions. Whereas for the 'Pour Paintings' the canvas is covered while standing, catching the vertical flow, in the case of the 'Puddle Paintings' the works are produced flat on the ground. Here the canvas is over flooded with various paints and objects like broken glass, small toys and glitter. The weight of the paint creates a sagging motion to the centre of the canvas, depicting a movement to those points. The time the colour takes to dry being much longer than with the 'Pour Paintings', the chemical reaction time span induces a larger sequence of reactions, such as change of colours, coagulations, cracks and oxidation. In both these groups of works, the artist explores in a very graphic way the consequences of the accidental, which is in fact emblematic in other forms to all of John Armleder's works.

As is his custom, the artist hopes to conjure up this 'vast maelstrom' in which value systems are swept away and hierarchical criteria collapse while the mainstays of the 'single thought' crumble. We should add that the forms do not necessarily have to be arranged in a certain order, the colors are often 'just as good as they are in the pot', and the story must not be scorned.

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 2 to 7 PM or by appointment.