

CV

Jaakko Karhunen
born 1979

education:

- *baccalaureate 1999
- *The University of Tampere 2000-> (major philosophy)
- *Free Art School, Helsinki 2001-2002
- *The Academy of Fine Arts 2003-> (major painting)

selected shows:

- *Gallery Myymälä2, march 2004, with Johanna Sipilä
- *'Free Booze from Estonia'- group show at the KaikuGallery, august 2004
- *Lens Politica-groupshow at Gallery Myymälä2, march 2005
- *Camp-laboratory, group show at the StudioX of the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, may 2006
- *'The Fleemarket'-group show at the Academy's Gallery in Lönrootinkatu (also curated by me and Hanne Granberg), june-july 2006
- *'Who am I now that I am Dead'- groupshow curated by Shahin Afrassiabi at the Lönrootinkatu Gallery, february 2007
- *Lens Politica 2- group show at Gallery FaFa, march 2007
- *'America!'- summer group show at the art center Ihana, Heinola, may-august 2007



artist statement

I have been mostly working with painting. For some reason I wanted to construct an identity of a painter, but recently I noticed that this very identity actually prevents me from making good paintings. That's because the painter-identity came first and only after that came the art, the paintings. After I have understood this I now have a new sense of freedom considering the mediums of visual arts, and also a new faith in the meaning of the word 'art'.

At the same time I have come more and more to terms with the conceptual side of my works. I usually work with existing images, altering and changing them for my own purposes. The end result can be quite far from the pictures that I started working with. The power of pictures is overwhelming today, the former 'logocentric' world has mutated to such an extent that power presents itself via pictures as opposed to words and concepts. To put it in a bit vulgar way, I want to resist 'the spectacle' and display my own alternative pictorial world.

about Kassel

The documenta12 is the biggest art event I have ever attended. I'm looking forward to it. It is very interesting to see how can such a huge and ambitious exhibition really work. For me it is an ideal time to take part in this kind of course. In my own work I'm approaching the questions of contemporary art practice that are at stake in Kassel. The leitmotifs of the exhibition are so big and important that they actually avoid clear definition. In this sense, the task of the exhibition seems impossible to succeed. Of course there is no clear, straightforward answers. And of course there can never be any definite truth that is the result of the conversation. Conversation is value in itself, as a potential place of conflict. Lack of conflict leads to a paralyzing consensus. Consensus is a state where nothing can anymore happen because everybody agrees *a priori*.

So I am looking forward to the panel discussions and conversations. I'm sure we will have a lot to talk about. For me it is a bit unclear what is expected from us the students, but that's actually a good thing. I don't think it is even possible to just 'fill the expectations', and anyway it would be very boring.



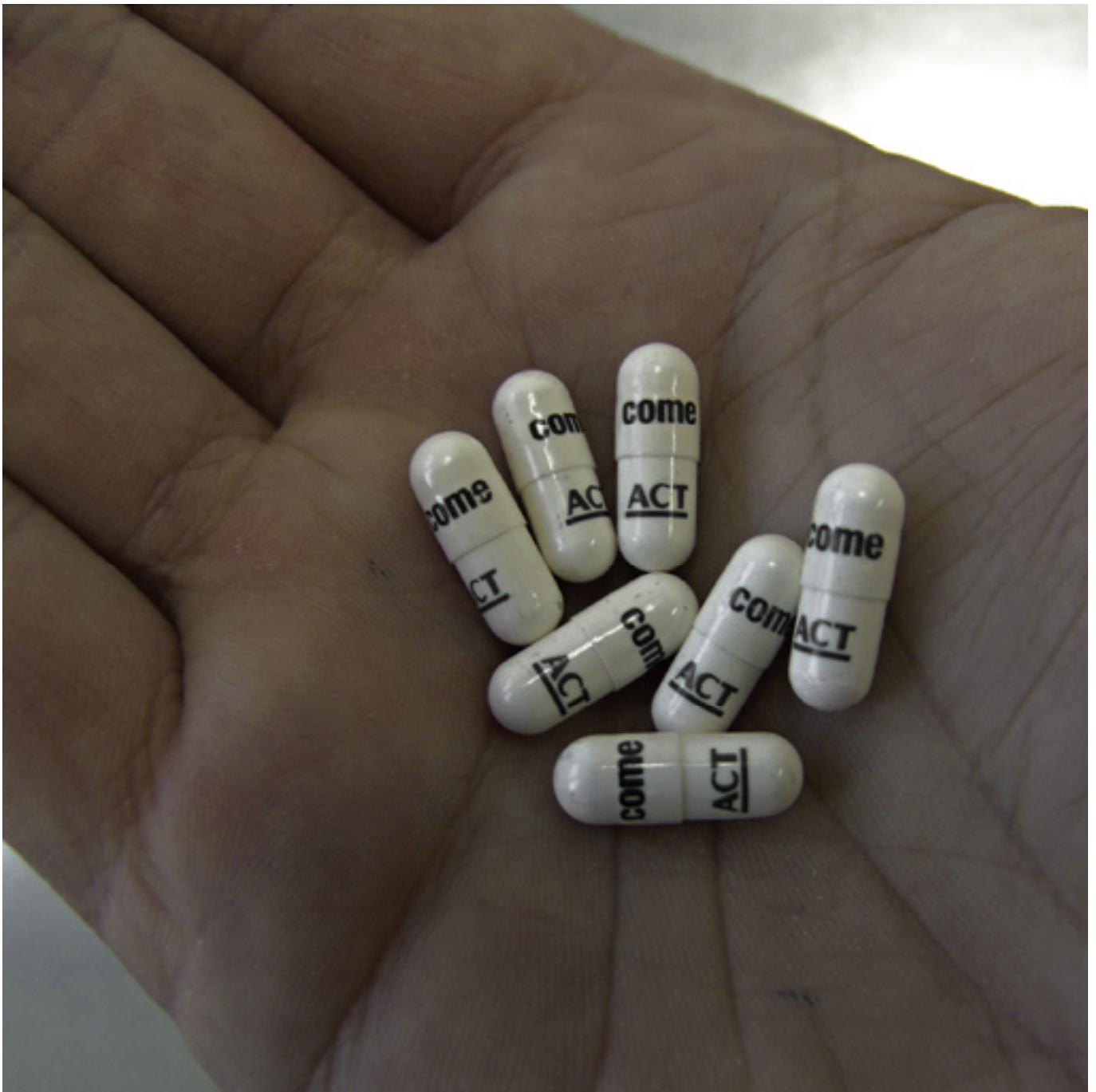
Bagdad by night, oil and alkyd on canvas, 2005



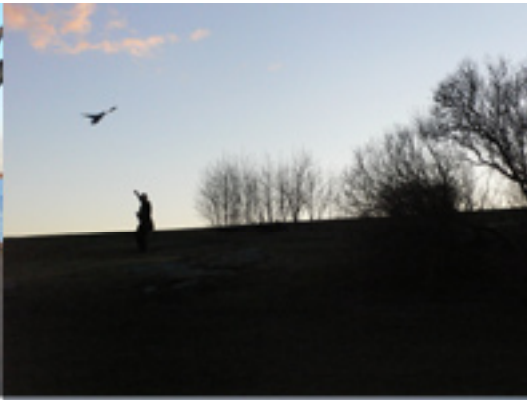
Egoism and Individualism,
serigraphy on metal covered wood
plates, 2006



Negative Horse (after Richard McLean: A Draft with Orange Doors), oil on plexiglas, 2006



comeACT, photograph 75X80 cm and medicine box with pills, 2007



The Crow, kite made of plastic sheet and bamboo, photographs, etc, 2007



The Mixed Feelings,
drawings (photo by Jussi
Tiainen), and on right the
flyer for the show 'Who
am I now that I am Dead'
(layout by Shoji Kato)