

Press report to the exhibition

Christian Zillner: Continent Nomansland

September 1st – 31st 2005

Atelier & Gallery **AREA 53**

A-1060 Vienna

Gumpendorfer Straße 53

open Tu – Fr 2.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Vernissage: Thursday, September 1st 2005, 7 p.m.

Christian Zillner works on the scientific documentation of continent nomansland. This lies just beneath our feet. To explore and map it Zillner uses the media painting and poetry. To regard the results as art is possible but misses the point. The aim is to visualize an unseen reality. Zillner sees his work as science but against the grain of the current scientific paradigm. Its explanatory power stops short before continent nomansland. Only a human being can discover and map it under a guideline transgressing the current scientific paradigm: no fear and no hope.

Continent (Latin *continere*, "to hold together") is a large continuous land mass. There are several conceptions of what a continent is, geographic, geologic, and tectonic. Herodotus writes: "And I laugh when I see that, though many before this have drawn maps of the Earth, yet no one has set the matter forth in an intelligent way ..." (from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continent>)

No man's land is a term for a land that is not occupied or more specifically land that is under dispute between parties that won't occupy it because of fear or uncertainty. No man's land may also be understood as Terra nullius.

Terra nullius is a Latin expression meaning "empty land" or "no man's land". The term refers to a 17th century doctrine that described land that was unclaimed by a sovereign recognised by European authorities and land that was not owned at all. During the 18th century the doctrine was used to give legal force for the settlement of lands occupied by "backward" people, where no system of laws or ownership of property was held to exist. (from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_nullius)