



#### KATJA STRUNZ

##### "First Selection" (Cruise & Callas, Berlin)

With blue-chip exhibition spaces mushrooming throughout Berlin, this new gallery, located in a rotten Kreuzberg backyard and basement, adds *haut goût* to the zeitgeist. A former motorcycle workshop with an oil-stained floor, rough brick walls, and a huge cellar, it's worlds away from the classic white cube, reminding me of temporary spaces you could find ten years ago in Berlin's pioneer days. Of the work in "First Selection," a show featuring five emerging artists, I especially liked that of Stefan Rinck, Heiko Sievers, and Gabriel Vormstein, whose rough-and-tough installations sprawled throughout the dark basement. In the backyard were fabulous abstract paintings by Ralf Dereich and Dominik Steiner.