

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Regen Projects
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STEPHAN BALKENHOL: NEW SCULPTURE

11 December 1993 - 29 January 1994

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Opening reception: Saturday, December 11th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Regen Projects is pleased to present German artist **Stephan Balkenhol's** first solo exhibition in America. The exhibit will consist of **Balkenhol's** figurative wood reliefs and free-standing sculptures.

Balkenhol's sculptural output over the last ten years is enigmatic in that the figurative reliefs of people and animals seem to defy codification. They are coolly objective, or, "proleptic markers--they pose, they do not act, they pose in place of act." (Vik Muniz, Parkett #36). And as Neal Benezra, chief curator at the Hirshorn Museum, has noted, "His is an altogether unassuming cast of characters, figures nearly generic in their portrayal and distinguished only by their sex, their particular pose, or the color of their hair, eyes, and clothing. While his carved and painted wood sculpture is characteristically flat-footed and inexpressive, **Balkenhol's** work bespeaks a thoroughgoing knowledge of the venerable history of figurative sculpture and of its placement in public." (Ibid.) **Balkenhol's** singular oeuvre is particularly interesting as an uncompromising inquiry into sculptural, figurative form. **Balkenhol's** method defies theoretical movements and yet the works evoke his sculptural forebears from minimalism, Pop, the objectivity of the Becher's photographs, Baselitz's wood sculptures (sans expressionism), and so on. What emerges is **Balkenhol's** highly original production that falls categorically between the lines and is, thus, continually challenging.

Balkenhol has exhibited his sculptures extensively in museums and galleries throughout Europe. There will be a traveling mid-career retrospective of **Balkenhol's** work at the Hirshorn Museum, Washington D.C. in the fall of 1995.

An opening reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Regen Projects. For further information please contact Stuart Regen or Shaun Caley at the gallery.