

Swiss Institute

For Immediate Release

May 1 – September 1 2012
Swiss Institute Façade

Nic Hess **BIRDS**

New York, March 20, 2012—Acclaimed for his manipulation of traditional art mediums—painting, drawing, collage, Swiss artist Nic Hess bridges art history, pop culture and graphic arts traditions. Commissioned by Swiss Institute, Hess has designed a site-specific mural which begins on the large glass façade and extend outward to encompass the entire building front, even the rolling screen shutter. This strategy maximizes all possible surface area and presents viewable art during the daytime as well as evening hours. Hess' design, a spiraling graphic of birds spins from out and around the center of the building; it touches on themes of migration and impermanence. Hess kicks off this new façade program, which will change twice per year and brings together the vibrant, vernacular of sign painting with the artistic strategy of abstraction and pop.

Nic Hess (b. 1968) has shown at international institutions such as Haus der Kunst (Munich, Germany); Kunstwerke (Berlin, Germany); Queens Museum of Art (New York, United States); Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, United States); Kunst Museum Winterthur (Winterthur, Switzerland); The Fruitmarket Gallery (Edinburgh, Scotland); and Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, United States). He has receive the prestigious Manor Prize of Zurich (2002), been in residence at the Paul Klee Center (2006), and received the Landis & Gyr Studiogrant in London (2010).