

# SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

## EMILY GERNILD - NOCTURNALIS

April 21 - May 27, 2023

We are very pleased to announce Emily Gernild's third solo exhibition at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY.

*Nocturnalis* - the title of the exhibition locates the works on display in the sphere of the night. We encounter dense pictorial spaces where forms and colors pile up, shift in and out of each other - like the thoughts of a dream freed from logic and direction. At the same time, each element seems to be arranging itself around a center of force not immediately discernible, which holds the composition together.

But more to that later.

Even more than in her two previous solo exhibitions at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY, this time Copenhagen-based artist Emily Gernild devotes herself to 'undesirable emotions', as she calls them. With ten canvases in the current exhibition, she takes us into the visual worlds of inner states. Existing fears, worries, and insecurities often seem magnified in the silence and darkness of a sleepless night, as if under a microscope. But works like *Chrysalis* and *From the Ashes* show: They are not solely about dark moments - rather, these become the starting point for change, for further development. Just as the larvae in *Chrysalis* undergo a metamorphosis and the flower-like formations in *From the Ashes* seem to emerge from a dark vortex, the works tell of incipient transformations that not only affect the psychological, but repeatedly also the physical.

In *Midnight Oil*, *Lush*, and *Subterranean*, we encounter organic forms that nestle together, seem to form a whole, and yet stand alone and for themselves in colorful distinction. In the field of tension between proximity and distance, the artist plays with figures whose physicality often suggests femininity. In doing so, Gernild remains true to some of her forms; thus, in addition to the vessels and flowers, lemons can also be seen here and there. Overall, however, an even greater detachment from figuration can be perceived compared to former works. And pictures such as *Club* and *Nocturnals* still recall her preferred genre of still life, but for the most part we are confronted with

'inner landscapes' that strongly go into abstraction, and whose openness leaves us plenty of room for interpretation.

Gernild's works, which have always been characterized by great dynamism, seem to have picked up even more speed: The works vibrate, positively pulsate. They derive their force from the virtuous arrangement of the individual elements on the canvas, which chases the viewer's eye across the picture surface and at the same time casts a spell over it.

But also, the materials used create the exciting movement that is common to all works. Gernild often combines different painting media such as oil, oilsticks, acrylics, pastels and watercolors, as well as pigments mixed with rabbit skin glue or gesso, so that the different color coatings each bring their own, sometimes contradictory qualities: Matt and glossy, glazed and pastose, plane and gestural.

It is the interplay of materials, colors and forms, as well as the possibilities of interpretation that makes the reception of Gernild's paintings a fantastic experience.

Text: Ferrial Nadja Karrasch

The opening will take place on Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 6 to 8 pm.

We will be happy to send you further information and visual material:

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