

# SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press Release - July 2015

ULRICH HAKEL, 'Suite Voilà'

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY is pleased to present the exhibition 'Suite Voilà', a series of drawings by ULRICH HAKEL. It is the third solo show of the Berlin-based painter at the gallery.

Furthermore, we are highly pleased to announce the release of the publication 'Ulrich Hakel - Suite Voilà, Berlin 2015' that was published by Kerber Verlag. The catalogue will be on display for the first time during the opening. The following text is an extract of the introduction by Mika Schmid, translated by Erik Smith:

"In the 1930s Pablo Picasso created a series of etchings that his art dealer and publicist Ambroise Vollard compiled into a 100-page portfolio, which was later released multiple times as a book and subsequently became known as the 'Suite Vollard'. Picasso's Suite has been the subject of Ulrich Hakel's interest for over a year, during which time he has also produced a new series of ink drawings whose title, 'Suite Voilà', alludes to the historical predecessor while simultaneously announcing its transformation. The 'Suite Voilà' series presented here is the outcome of numerous impulses stemming from the observation of visual material and its narrative potential, which Hakel likens to the experience of reading a novel.

[...]

On the pages of the 'Suite Vollard', specific themes, such as the artist in his studio, the Minotaur myth, the struggle for love and several portraits of the art dealer, can be identified while its ability to touch and move the viewer is conveyed through the idiosyncrasies of the composition and its application of lines and marks. This is akin to the pleasure the reader derives from the text when observing what is happening with the language rather than paying exclusive attention to the ideas it is communicating.

To some degree, Ulrich Hakel approaches Picasso's example mimetically, in order to create his own commentary out of the process and to sustain what is visible. And since the artistic style, in particular in the medium of drawing, makes it possible to articulate things directly, spontaneously and quickly, what is produced corresponds first and foremost to Hakel's own artistic truth. The uniqueness of the creativity frees it from its predecessor, asserting its yearning for originality in the application of lines. And if the artist has no expectations for what forms on the page, the drawing can also develop unencumbered with respect to material and matter. This moment is freed from the constraints of presentation, exhibiting and representation. Only an inner logic is visible here. Stereotyped thinking and its constraints well up and over: the delicate and elegant, the grotesque, the chaotic, the indignant ... and the joke."

The opening takes place on Thursday, 2 July 2015, from 6 to 8 pm 2015.