

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press Release - March 2014

CLARA BRÖRMANN

We are pleased to announce the exhibition *von + an* by CLARA BRÖRMANN, born in 1982 in Duisburg. This is the second solo show by the Berlin-based painter with SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY.

Like ribbons of a bodice, dark lines constrict the geometrically fragmented small format *von + an 4* (2014). The white triangles and black colour strips overlap and seem to arrange themselves centrifugally around the middle axis of the canvas. At the same time, the diffuse, zestful lines of the background are rather seductive. What hides between the surface shapes? After closer contemplation, the entirety of the structure of the “behind” reveals the many layers of the destructive painting process that is so significant for this work.

The twelve works in the exhibition, all painted in 2013 and 2014, offer the beholder a chance to trace the paintings’ process of formation. Clara Brörmann uses oil paints and adhesive tape on her canvases; in intermediate steps, the support is rubbed, washed off or sanded several times. So during the genesis of the painting the materiality of the various layers is foregrounded, and the result is a temporally condensed work. Just as the artist is in continuous conversation with the canvas as she creates a work, the beholder continues this conversation on a very personal level with the pictures in the exhibition, in an exchange between a geometric foreground and background. The open title of *von + an* alludes precisely to this mutuality that in dialogue can allow for something completely new and unexpected to emerge.

One example here is the *Großes Spielebild* (2014). One might see the pattern of a backgammon set in the black rhombus shapes. But couldn’t it also be a chessboard? On second sight, things seem less clear, and the well-worn structure of the canvas becomes more significant. By removing individual elements of material and paint, the painter reaches for the motif behind, and what for a moment seemed clear becomes ambiguous again. At the same time, the monumentality of the work, which stands in complete contrast to small board games, remains in its overall composition coherent through the gentle light-dark contrasts.

The artist plays with the beholder's natural thirst for knowledge and offers in her works insights into the intellectual and practical process of visual creation. She sketches and rejects, layers and removes, until she has created a unity of colour, form, and material. In the large 2014 two-part work *Schwimmbad-Diptychon*, we can easily follow this overall and individual impression. Seen from afar, it fascinates us with a hypnotic wave dynamic that sets organic dark forms reminiscent of *trompe-l'oeil* into motion. When we get closer, the wave structure reveals itself as a light blue colour line composition whose layers become torn individual forms through a subtractive process. This haptic search for traces leads to questions as to how the form of the work came about: what came first, what last? The partial visibility arouses the beholder's curiosity and inventiveness.

Text: Clara Tang

Translation: Wilhelm von Werthern

The opening takes place on Thursday, 13 March 2014, 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition: 14 March to 12 April 2014.

For further information, please contact the gallery anytime at mail@schwarz-contemporary.com