

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

HENRIK EIBEN

11 September to 16 October 2021

We take pleasure in announcing the solo exhibition 'syo-ro' by Hamburg-based artist HENRIK EIBEN.

In Henrik Eiben's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery, SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY presents eleven new works.

Syo-ro - the dewdrop of a pine tree. The dark turquoise of the Japanese ink syo-ro stands for the quiet awakening of the forest that manifests itself in the appearance of a dewdrop at the delicate needle of a pine. In his large works on paper, Henrik Eiben gives this colour, after which the exhibition is named, exactly the space it needs to present itself in all its variety.

Visitors are welcomed at the entrance by a large-format drawing where for the first time Eiben uses only one colour. The ink drawing *Point of Departure* (2021) appears almost reduced, even though it measures 180 x 132 cm. Single shapes and lines of varying intensity are joined to create a motif. Two narrow elongated shapes dominate the work. On the superimposed brushstrokes that make up the lower of the two shapes, drips of paint have spread, fascinating for their darker edge that tapers out. Positioned slightly higher, the second of these figures in a dark turquoise seems like a rod on which ovals are drawn. Yet it is the curved shape, executed with far less application of ink, that connects the elements like a wave. Its colour progression that begins brightly and transparently in a broad shape and ends in a narrow, opaque point, directs our gaze and mediates between the visual components. The three-part figure is surrounded by two pairs of lines that enclose events in a dance-like manner. It is the combination of decisively executed brushstrokes, delicate lines, and varied overlappings that creates an impressive dynamic in the work.

From the dramaturgy of a single colour we are led in the exhibition to a variegated play of different colours: *Stardust (passin' thru)*. Small, rounded objects, covered in fabric, are pinned to the wall like oversized nails. In the centre is a yellow and larger circle, around which ten circles in different colours are arranged. They appear to be weightless. The arrangement of these points is reminiscent of a stellar constellation that reminds us of far-away galaxies that shine in bright colours.

In his previous exhibitions, Henrik Eiben demonstrated that he is a master of the art of combining different materials. He does so very effectively with *Odin*, a combination of glass, wood, and fabric. A blown, blue glass corpus with an uneven surface is suspended in the centre, held by a dark wooden bracket. Two geometric shapes made of wood and fabric in pastel shades support the glass corpus from below. In an almost self-effacing manner, the work exudes a calming serenity.

Opposite *Odin*, we encounter *Rämi*, a colourful sculpture consisting of six rectangular forms. They share the same shape with a rounded corner each, as well as the material, wood. They stand out from one another by virtue of their coating and positioning. Placed at different angles, sometimes next to each other and sometimes on top of each other, they form an ensemble that is a three-dimensional work which reveals new and surprising aspects from every perspective. *Oreo* seems at first sight similar, but on closer inspection turns out to be quite different. The effect of the arrangement and the choice of colours is so animated that one might easily imagine how the elements could start to move, roll off each other at their rounded sides, and almost tumbling, make clanging wooden sounds.

Another first in Henrik Eiben's oeuvre is his bronze sculpture *Mercury Climb* in this exhibition. Just as with the two large-format works on paper, Eiben only uses one material: here, five corners made of bronze are placed on top of each other, one of them with blue patina.

Henrik Eiben was born in Tokyo in 1975 and lives in Hamburg with his family. From 1997 to 2002 he studied at the Academy of Visual Arts and Design in Enschede, the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore (2001), and at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe with Silvia Bächli (2002 to 2004).

The exhibition will be on view until October 16, 2021, on Wednesdays to Fridays from noon to 6 pm, on Saturdays from noon to 4 pm, and by appointment.

Please contact the gallery anytime for further information, images, and enquiries: mail@schwarz-contemporary.com