

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press release - July 2016
FEE KLEISS - *Don'ts*
8 to 30 July, 2016

We are happy to announce the first solo exhibition by the painter and sculptor Fee Kleiß at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY.

In her exhibition *Don'ts*, the artist breaks through the frontiers between painting and reality, space and surface. Many of her objects and small canvases are modelled on plant life. Sometimes, fruit or even trivial objects are being used – a kiwi lying in front of a painting, for example, and a sponge pushing itself in before the painting's abstract shapes. *Alimentari* seems like a vendor's tray offering up the whole range of what this artist does. On a tray-like board, she presents an entwined object of bright neon, next to it a moss green plant-like piece of ceramics, an apricot-coloured wedge, a rolled up thread, and the above-mentioned sponge with the kiwi. The rear panel, which functions as a backdrop, shows abstract, geometric painting in greyish blue and yellow, on the left, a drop is stuck to the painting. *Alimentari* is a mixture between peep box and a dreamily modern still life, which - like its historical masterly role models - plays with illusion.

The pipes, stems, fetishes, and plants growing on the numerous canvases also seem to grow on the floor of the gallery. Kleiß addresses basic formal questions of artistic work. How can paintings be constructed, and how can constructions be painted? She builds paintings and paints sculpture, plays different laws of physics off against each other, and bravely lets them converge. She is interested in outsmarting the laws of physics, in order and deviation, and in the *do's* and *don'ts* in art. In the end, we become part of a sensual staging of possibilities and impossibilities.

Fee Kleiß was born in 1984 in Kuchen. After studying at Kunsthochschule Mainz with Anne Berning, she graduated in 2013 from Valérie Favre's master class at Universität der Künste Berlin. Kleiß lives and works in Berlin.

Her works have been shown in solo shows at Kunstverein Siegen and Platform Berlin, as well as in numerous group shows, including in 2014 at Salon Mutlu and at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY in Berlin, and most recently in 2015 at Künstlerhaus Dortmund.

This year, the artist received the Dorothea Konwiarz fellowship. Her works will be shown in a solo exhibition in the foundation's space in Berlin in the spring of 2017.