

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press Release - **BENJAMIN BERNT & JANNE RÄISÄNEN**

Bedeutende Menschen nennen mich ein Kind - January 17 to February 22, 2020

We are very happy to announce the two person show ‚Bedeutende Menschen nennen mich ein Kind‘ with **Benjamin Bernt** and **Janne Räisänen**. The exhibition is a collaboration between **OFFICE IMPART** and **SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY** with the two Berlin based artists.

Benjamin Bernt (* 1982) lives and works in Berlin. Since studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe, he has basically dealt with the human figure and the fictional portrait. Looking at his drawings and paintings, a play begins between foreground and background, and between color and shapes. Silhouettes of heads or figures can be seen in a line that contrast with those of color fields. It is about capturing the character of people or situations. Most of the time, Bernt tries to surprise himself during his painterly process. He carefully analyzes whether the resulting pictures correspond to his ideas. In his mostly small-format canvases and drawings, however, monotony does not occur: no painting or drawing is alike. With Benjamin Bernt, OFFICE IMPART founders Anne Schwanz and Johanna Neuschäffer have already realised a wide variety of projects, including a presentation at OFFICE IMPART’s space in Berlin-Moabit in 2019, and the participation at ‚The Others Art Fair‘ in Turin in 2018.

Benjamin Bernt’s paintings are on view at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY for the first time and we are happy about our successful collaboration with OFFICE IMPART!

Finnish artist **Janne Räisänen** (born 1971 in Pudasjärvi, Finland), based in Berlin, has been represented by SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY since 2014.

In Räisänen’s usually untitled drawings, in contrast to his canvases, an animate object, a plant, an animal, a creature is always already there before the next something is added.

The works on paper in the current exhibition, executed towards the end of 2019, represent a comeback by Janne Räisänen to the world of watercolours. The artist comments this in an interview with Anne Schwarz in January 2020: „It was rather a coincidence that I started to work with watercolours after so many years again.

I think last time I used them in the Academy in Helsinki and Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main in the 90's. At the same time, the watercolours seem free and easy to use but are also very unforgiving and difficult.“

Räisänen's beings do not conform to any ideals; in their world, there are no simple binaries of good and evil. The figures exude a serious happiness, they are thrown into the world and are deformed, stretched, inflated. The work on the pictures always begins non-figuratively. Only after a while do figures or objects peel out of the abstract compositions - often surprising even for Räisänen himself.

The exhibition opening takes place on January 16th, 2020, 6 to 8 pm at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY, Sanderstraße 28, Berlin-Neukölln.

The show is on view until February 22nd, 2020 - Wednesday to Saturday, 12 to 6 pm, and by appointment.

Image requests and further information:

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