

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press release – January 2012

Oliver Flössel, *dia log*

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY is pleased to mark the opening of 2012 with a solo exhibition by Oliver Flössel.

The show *dia log* is the first solo exhibition of the Berlin-based artist at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY and will be on view until February 18, 2012.

Flössel's large paintings are the logbook of his daily experience and his impressions. Like a diary, they include traces of thoughts, of experienced fragments, combined to create a new ensemble. Hereby Flössel gives the functional role of communication a new figurative form: What is brought onto canvas is the content of a conversation between the artist and the painting, where the colours and forms act as textual modules.

To express inner thoughts into coherent language requires an understanding of the inner confusion. Flössel's compositions derive from interaction between reason and chaos, a multi-layered thought - a process which addresses, assesses and compares a variety of every day perceptions.

The communicative cooperation in Flössel's works is revealed in the permanent challenging of the artist's objectives and ambitions towards the painting, but also in the questioning of the particularities and aspirations of the picture towards the painter.

Communication, however, is not only about acknowledging the other side, it also means to test his or her limits: To what extent will the painting submit to the will of the painter, at which point will he have to acknowledge that the painting may need some rest, and when will the character of the painting itself start to dominate its further progress?

Both the peculiarities of the two sides in the conversation as well as the impact of continuously renewed influences from the outside make it impossible to predict the final results. Subtly announced at times, or happening all of a sudden, as the dialog between artist and painting is free to take an unexpected turn, and then come to a climax, or risk breaking off.

In order to find a good mode of cooperation, flexibility is required and Flössel constantly demands motion from himself and the painting: The physical work on the painting assumes a decisive role for Flössel, which is why he uses large-sized, robust canvases.

In the course of their creation, the paintings are turned and rotated, until the adequate position on the studio floor or on the wall has been found.

Through this powerful process of engagement, the tension and depth, quite typical for Oliver Flössel's paintings, come to the fore. Their manifestation includes the interplay of forms, alternating between abstract and figurative, the flashing of letters of the alphabet, the varying application of colour and the use of diverse media such as oil paint, highlighter, varnish or spray paint.

As soon as the dialog between artist and picture has been finalized, the paintings are there to inspire a new dialog, this time with the viewer. For Flössel, at this point, it is not about a retraceability of his own, by now finalized communication process. He would rather wish to offer points of reference between the picture and the individual associations of the viewer and thereby initiating yet another communicative interaction.

Text: Ferial Karrasch

Oliver Flössel, born in Bad Kreuznach in 1977, graduated from Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach am Main in 2007. He lives and works in Berlin.

The opening of the show *dia /og* at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY takes place on January 12, 2012 between 6 and 8 pm.

For further information or any inquiries please contact the gallery at anytime via: mail@schwarz-contemporary.com