

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

MONIKA GOETZ

beyond

January 17 - March 1, 2014

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY is pleased to present the second solo show of works by Berlin artist Monika Goetz.

At first, our gaze is directed to a wall with enormous cracks. Starting with two lines on the ceiling, a broad root system of canals of various depth spreads over the concrete. The progress of the traces, furrows, and ramifications are reminiscent of lightning, visible just for the fraction of second in the sky during a storm. Even though ornamental and aesthetically pleasing, the porous wall raises the question whether it will withstand the damage. But it is precisely this fragility and brusqueness that introduce a delicate lyricism. The wall area, which seems marked by some kind of impact, at the same time brings up the idea of the exhibition. *Beyond* is about spherical phenomenon, about natural and above all special phenomena that we recognise but cannot grasp. About natural events in the sky that take place far away from us, without any intervention or control by humans, and of which we can only perceive simplified images.

The installation *Eclipse* refers to an astronomical anomaly. It describes the very moment when the sun, the moon, and the earth are aligned. The moon, which is responsible for the eclipse, obscures the sun almost completely, so that only the corona of light can be perceived. Here, the title of the exhibition is literally mirrored. With Goetz, the black disk is placed in front of a row of fluorescent tubes. This work, which is optically fascinating, can be perceived, depending on one's focus, either as a corona or a deep whole in the wall.

The next work also deals with the potential of the sun: the artist has drawn the rainbow – which is actually colourful and thus a symbol for optimism – monochromatically. In an absolute low-tech manner, she sprayed it with a sieve, brush, and ink onto the paper. The title of this work is accordingly *Sad Rainbow*, which has exchanged its colours for seven shades of grey. A glass wall, almost two meters high, has been placed in front of the entrance to the second room of the gallery. It is made up of hundreds of small rectangles of window glass and reveals only the outlines of what is behind it. Even though this barrier blocks our path, we are nonetheless able to look into the space behind it through a small opening. There, we see the sculpture *Fallen Star*, a star on the floor, that has long ago given up and stopped shining. We can only see the greenish and dull reverse side of the mirror glass of which it is made – the reflective side is on the inside. And the three-dimensional spikes look rather threatening. With the aid of the *Glass Wall*, the artist marks a space beyond that seems hostile to life.

All the works in the exhibition refer directly or indirectly to spaces that are not graspable, that lie physically above us, or exist only in our imagination. By manifesting these works in the gallery space, the artist attempts to make what is intangible tangible, and in this way she reveals the limits of our perception.

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Translation: Wilhelm von Werthern, www.zweisprachkunst.de

The opening reception will be on Thursday 16 January 2014, from 6 to 8 pm.

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