

Künstlerhaus

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Chat Jet

Painting <Beyond> The Medium

The pieces of the first internationally themed group exhibition Chat Jet, shown on the occasion of the Künstlerhaus re-opening, will be dedicated to current approaches in painting that might be labelled as beside itself, or outside of its original frame. Some painting seems to leave its frame by entering into space formerly attributed to sculpture. Pigment, acrylic, and canvas are used only modestly. Instead, multifaceted surfaces are painted with the help of different materials, media, and for different "reasons". For example, inkjet on paper replaces oil on canvas, or the swift chat in social media and the resulting networks might influence a straightforward development of the artist's work. In this light, current strategies place the concept and not the skill in the foreground. "Painting" presents itself as being context-related and preferably beyond its medium.

The issue of "painting" may be established again and again, and the reactions thereupon are manifold. Back in 1990, Martin Kippenberger said: "Simply to hang a painting on the wall and say that it's art is dreadful. The whole network is important! Even spaghetti. ... When you say art, then everything possible belongs to it. In a gallery that is also the floor, the architecture, and the colour of the walls." Since then, a range of artists have worked in and elaborated on this context. A certain number of works by artists participating in this exhibition developed out of these or similar considerations, but with temporally shifted and refined knowledge of media. Paintings are discussed within broader contexts, where the specific nature of the work matters and no aspect is overlapping a different one. The artists are very playful when it comes to possible changes of their own positions in reaction to developments and discourse around "painting".

The exhibition Chat Jet: Painting <Beyond> The Medium and the artwork it presents deal with the questions that have proven to be virulent: How does painting respond

to the challenges of a mediatised society that is characterised by (mechanical) reproduction? What are the media, structures, and surfaces employed in painting nowadays? Have we reached a point where the image is fractured into fragments? And if so, how does it remain possible to define painting if it faces greater mediatic challenges and even enters into alliances with techniques that were formerly alien to painting? Might painting's reflexive game with its own remnants generally refer to the breakdown of separation in the field of visual culture, and why do we still tend to prefer that this be demonstrated to us by painting instead of by 3-D animation? Chat Jet focuses on these explorative questions and provides an intense confrontation with current image strategies, for the exhibition addresses some relevant "carriers" of painting today.

Artists: Franz Amann, Ei Arakawa / Nikolas Gambaroff, Monika Baer, Will Benedict, Andy Boot, Jana Euler, Manuel Gorkiewicz, Wade Guyton, Clemens Hollerer, Alex Hubbard, Jutta Koether, Michael Kriebler, Anita Leisz, Lotte Lyon, Birgit Megerle, Chiara Minchio, Ute Müller, Reto Pulfer, Blake Rayne, Pamela Rosenkranz, Stefan Sandner, Gedi Sibony, Reena Spaulings, Lucie Stahl, Cheyney Thompson, Jessica Warboys, Alexander Wolff

Chat Jet is curated by Sandro Droschl in collaboration with Christian Egger, who has assumed a curatorial position at the Künstlerhaus. The comprehensive project includes an accompanying program and an exhibition catalogue.

7 March to 5 May 2013

Opening: 6 March, 6 p.m.