

PRESS RELEASE**Pierre Haubensak *DIE WAND***

11 March to 13 April 2017

Opening reception: Friday, 10 March 2017, 6 to 8pm



We are delighted to present the third solo exhibition by Pierre Haubensak in our gallery. The exhibition covers works developed in different media between 1994 and 2017. The show represents an homage as well as a documentation of the mural painting *Netz* from 2011 by Pierre Haubensak on the fire wall of the so-called nail house in the borough 5 in Zurich. The controversial house was demolished last year. Pierre Haubensak had discovered on one of his city wandering tours this huge, tempting wall on which even a scaffold was already mounted. He contacted directly the responsible authority in the municipality of Zurich. They non-bureaucratically liked the idea of a temporary wall painting on the firewall. The firewall meant Pierre Haubensak a lot and he therefore tried to preserve it, but in vain.

In the first room of the gallery a delicate mural drawing, recorded by the artist himself with charcoal, welcomes the visitors of the exhibition. The pattern of standing and laying diamonds, enfolding falling squares, follows with graphic means the configuration on the firewall. The dimensions of the pattern are adjusted to the wall in the entrance room: Not too small but also not large the wall drawing reaches from floor to ceiling and is cropped by its boundaries. Therefore the pattern is not producing a nervous effect but the illusion of three-dimensionality. This old pattern, derived from Mauritanian ornament, gives – through the compressed form of the diamonds – the impression of being exposed to forces and therefore being in constant movement. To the left of the wall drawing a video by Pascale Gmür shows the demolition of the nail house and an interview with Pierre Haubensak.

In the main room of the gallery oil paintings and drawings demonstrate Pierre Haubensak's ongoing occupation with the diamond pattern and the variations of net-paintings. The first net painting in oil dates from 1995. In the previous year Haubensak creates a charcoal drawing, adumbrating a netting wire. This drawing can be regarded as the prototype of the net-images. Two smaller works on paper from 1995 refer in form and title directly to the net painting from 1995 and clarify the development of the vocabulary of forms. Around 1995, since 1997 more distinctively, Haubensak engages with the subject matter of *Crosslines*, which are represented in the exhibition by two oil paintings in medium format from 1997-98 and 1998-99. In a smaller painting in acrylic and with accurately positioned chalk lines from 2002 Pierre Haubensak revisits the subject of the net after the Millennium in a concentrated form. After the appearance of the wall painting in 2011 no other net-paintings origin. In 2015 Pierre Haubensak develops in two paintings called *Nightwalk* a reduction of painterly means, emanating a sovereign and confident late work.

Pierre Haubensak (*1935 in Meiringen) is one of the most famous contemporary Swiss artists. His career dates back to the late fifties. He studied in Geneva and Basel and lived in the sixties in Ibiza. From 1969 to 1977 he had a loft on Canal Street in New York. Since 1978 he lives and works in Zurich.

The opening reception of the exhibition takes place in presence of the artist, Friday, 10 March 2017 from 6 to 8pm. For further information and image material please contact the gallery:

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Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, noon to 6pm, Saturday 11am to 5pm and by appointment