

PRESS RELEASE**Michael Bauch***Painting*

12 February – 27 March 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, 11 February 2010 from 6–8 pm

We are delighted to show new works by the German artist Michael Bauch (born 1951 in Wiesbaden, lives and works in Hamburg) for his first exhibition in Zurich. Bauch studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste (Academy of the Arts) in Hamburg. His professors were Kai Sudeck and Gotthard Graubner. Since graduating in 1978, Bauch's work has been seen in many group and solo exhibitions in important international galleries.

His career began in the early 1980s, when the so-called Neuen Wilden, which was determined by figuration, narration and expressive gestural painting, was the current art movement in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Bauch's conceptual paintings were far from this movement; he had other interests, which he follows until today. His work convinces through the concentration of its means: it is self-confident and self-evident and bears in its sharply-defined formal specifications a sensual moment. Rightly his new works have been put on the watchlist in the Berlin art magazine *Monopol*. His latest paintings are now to be seen in Zurich.

Bauch's paintings, although conceptual allow figurative associations. The artist indicates that there is no narration or figuration at the beginning of his work but a clear constructive dissection of the picture plane through skilled manual work procedures. In his analytical art Bauch deals with the question of what a painting is. He assigns pictorial planes, organising them with colours and forms. Each painterly mark on a plain canvas evokes a spatial impact, which Bauch often accentuates and picks out as a central theme, by physically intervening directly into the canvas, cutting, piercing and folding it; as well as by varying the flow of the paint and the characteristics of the paint-brush. Bauch reverts to a wide range of possible image solutions. His paintings evoke very different moods ranging from sombre heaviness to exhilarating lightness, creating these effects in particular through his intelligent use of colours.

The prelude to his exhibition in Zurich is a large painting, clearly visible from the street through the shop windows. The painting is nearly covering the entire wall opposite the entrance and the shop window. The composition is defined by piled monochromatic discs, which form modules. These colour modules touch each other and constitute therefore new patterns and samples. Figure and ground compete with each other and lead to the question, which level is in the foreground and which in the background? The modules are derived from clear gestural drives. Through its playfulness and order the painting holds musical qualities. Bauch follows in the creation of his works a peculiarity: He defines the decisive colours just before the end of the painting process and introduces them into specified space. The balance of colours is pivotal to this approach, which results in daring, but nevertheless harmonious colour combinations.

In the middle room of the gallery, visible from the first room, hangs a painting, in which Bauch uses again the colour modules of piled discs. But this time he restricts himself to two colours, green and black, and arranges the composition more severely. In this painting Bauch achieves the impression of concentrated calm; it is less playful than the large-sized painting in the entrance hall. In the other paintings in the middle room Bauch's choice of sometimes vibrant colours and their combination develop atmospherical and figurative associations, often surprising the artist himself: Bauch creates through formal means the passing of the seasons and poignant moods.

The opening reception takes place Thursday, 11 February 2010 from 6 to 8 pm. The artist will be present. For further information and images please contact the gallery, Lullin + Ferrari, Limmatstrasse 214, CH-8005 Zürich, t. +41 (0)43 205 26 07, f. +41 (0)43 205 26 08, info@lullinferrari.com, www.lullinferrari.com
Opening hours: Tues to Fri, noon to 6 pm, Thursday noon to 8 pm, Saturday 11 to 5 pm, and by appointment

Michael Bauch

- 1951 born in Wiesbaden, Germany, lives and works in Hamburg
1974-78 Studies at the Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg, Germany

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Solo exhibitions

- 2010 *Painting*, Galerie Lullin + Ferrari, Zurich
Galerie Krobath, Vienna
2009 Galerie Karin Guenther, Hamburg
2008 nihil nisi, Berlin
2003 Künstlerhaus Hamburg
2002 Palais für aktuelle Kunst, Glückstadt, Germany
1997 Produzenten Galerie, Hamburg
1994 Künstlerhaus Hamburg
1988 Jablonka Galerie, Cologne
1987 Ausstellungsraum Alte Königstrasse 5, Hamburg
1986 Preisträger *Forum junger Kunst*, Kunsthalle Kiel, Germany (Cat.)
1985 *Standpunkte*, Kunsthalle Hamburg (Cat.)
1984 Kunstverein Krefeld, Germany
1983 Buchhandlung Welt, Hamburg (mural)
1982 Galleria Pellergrino, Bologna, Italy
1980 Galerie Max Hetzler, Stuttgart
1978 Ausstellungsraum Ulrich Rückriem, Hamburg
Galerie Arno Kohnen, Düsseldorf (also 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1986)

Selected group exhibitions

- 2010 Sammlung Falckenberg, Phoenix Kulturstiftung, Hamburg
2009 nihil nisi, Berlin
2008 *Wir nennen es Hamburg*, Kunstverein Hamburg
2006 *Kunst in Hamburg heute*, Hamburger Kunsthalle
1988 *L'Art pour l'Europe*, Brussels, Belgium (Cat.)
Künstlerhaus Hamburg
BINATIONALE, Deutsche Kunst der späten 80er Jahre, Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, USA;
other venues in Minneapolis and Houston (Cat.)
1986 *Stipendiaten*, Kunsthaus Hamburg (Cat.)
1985 *Selbstporträt im Zeitalter der Fotografie*, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart
Forum junger Kunst, Museum Bochum; Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg (Cat.)
MUSEUM-MUSEUM-MUSEUM, Hamburg (Cat.)
1984 Künstlerhaus Hamburg
Sammlung Metzger, Kunsthalle Budapest, Hungary (Cat.)
1983 Hamburger Maler in der NAB Gallery, Chicago, USA
Skulptur und Farbe, Gesellschaft für aktuelle Kunst, Bremen (Cat.)
1982 *La giovane transavanguardia tedescha*, San Marino (Cat.)
Perspektiven, Förderkoje Art Basel, Galerie Vera Munro, Hamburg
Halle 6, Kampnagelfabrik, Hamburg (Cat.)
1981 *Junge Kunst aus Westdeutschland*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Stuttgart (Cat.)
Rundschau Deutschland, Lothringerstrasse 13, Munich (Cat.)
Szenen der Volkskunst, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (Cat.)
Bildwechsel, Neue Malerei aus Deutschland, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (Cat.)
Gegen-Bilder, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe (Cat.)
1980 *Kunstaussstellung Gutenbergstr. 62a*, Stuttgart (Cat.)
Finger für Deutschland, Atelier Jörg Immendorf, Düsseldorf (Cat.)
1979 *Europa 79*, Stuttgart
1978 *Selbstgespräche*, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (Cat.)