

GALERIEKORNFELD

GALERIE KORNFELD presents the exhibition H3PO4 with new works by FRANZISKA KLOTZ

Reception for the Artist

Sat, 21 June 2014, 6-9 p.m.

Duration

21 June – 9 August 2014, Tue-Sat 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Location

Galerie Kornfeld, Fasanenstraße 26, D-10719 Berlin

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted to present the exhibition H3PO4, featuring new works by Franziska Klotz, from June 21 to August 9, 2014.

Organizing the image field using color, shape and surface – the genuine means of painting – is central to the art of Franziska Klotz (b. 1979, Dresden). Her work is characterized by a virtuosic handling of the different modes of painting. Using these purely painterly means, the Berlin-based artist always deals with the real world of the 20th and 21st century, toward which she pursues a subjective perspective that is guided by her personal impressions and feelings.

Her most recent works are primarily based on historical photographs of the destruction of Dresden in 1945. The artist's examination of this theme originates from her personal relationship to the events in her home town. Through her extensive research in the Dresden archives, the artist found a variety of formally impressive motifs of the ruined city, which she connects with motifs from other historical contexts, such as pictures of the burning oil fields in Kuwait, creating impressive compositions. In this way she combines personal impressions and experiences with the visual memory of different collective experiences, leading to autonomous contemporary historic paintings. "Dresden" becomes a metaphor that speaks of far more than the concrete location or the historic event.

Accordingly, the title "H3PO4" – the chemical formula for phosphoric acid – opens another mental space, by alluding to the myth of the bombing of Dresden with phosphorus bombs: The boundary between experienced reality, imagination and myth-making is removed, resulting in a new, visual reality that moves away from the concrete event.

Also evident in these works is an idealistic relationship with pictures like "Triumph of Death" by Pieter Bruegel the Elder: His painting in the Prado in Madrid from 1562 is a metaphor for the victory of death over life. Despite the idealization, Bruegel's landscape also features aspects of the real environment, depicting scenes of violence, destruction, suffering and death, which were also part of the reality of the painter's life. The same applies to the Dresden paintings by Franziska Klotz, which demonstrate the artist's reflexive examination of socio-political issues beyond the concrete event. Questions regarding crime and punishment dissolve into the disturbing fascination and power which is inherent in the images of chaos and destruction.

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Franziska Klotz is never willing to give up the object and thus the orientation of their painting toward reality. However, her powerful and intense images are always more than a painted picture of what has been seen: Regardless of the motif, a painting by Franziska Klotz is first and foremost an autonomous painterly composition, which is touching even without knowledge of the themes portrayed.

Franziska Klotz studied painting at the Art Academy in Berlin- Weissensee. She was awarded the Max Ernst Scholarship from the town of Brühl and in summer 2015 will be a fellow of the Tarabya Academy of Culture in Istanbul, which is run by the German Embassy in Ankara and curated by the Goethe Institute in Istanbul. In the summer of 2014 she will be represented with five large-scale paintings at the 4th Moscow International Biennale for Young Art. The British curator David Elliott is the Artistic Director of the exhibition, entitled "A Time for Dreams".

For questions or further information please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to send you printable pictures or other images on request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tilman Treusch

Contact

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