

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

FLORIAN BÜHLER "Wärme- und Kältequellen"

26 August - 15 October 2011
Season-Opening / Opening: Thursday, 25 August 2011, 6 - 9 pm

KATZ CONTEMPORARY is delighted to present Florian Bühler's first solo exhibition. His works have previously been on view in 2009 in a double show alongside pieces by Jörg Immendorf. Bühler now presents his latest work under the title „Wärme- und Kältequellen“.

Not just the title of his exhibition but also Florian Bühler's work style is based on different sources - he uses photographs as inspiration and then transports them to canvas or cotton in oil paint. The paintings culminate in several opaque layers of paint which become thicker and more complex while at the same time displaying clearly structured and frontal compositions. Bühler's work is based on drafts of different sorts: His pieces function as pictures of subjects - they are imitations of illusions, ultimately formulated in clear shapes and surfaces. Starting off with the visual basic draft the piece ends up as an over-the-top interpretation. Bühler thereby creates a distance between viewer and motif while simultaneously subverting reality.

Bühler's pieces show allegories of genres of painting and as such evoke certain interpretations. The (self-)portraits, still lifes and genre depictions therefore can be understood as following the tradition of 17th century Dutch painting. Furthermore Bühler's work refers to Photorealism and New Objectivity. This way the artist's intention of capturing and representing everyday life objects is even further amplified. Among others, the „fridge picture“ beautifully toys with this form of displaying reality - it's a game of back and forth between deception and concreteness. The contents of Bühler's work reveal themselves as cul de sacs and traps: When looking at a piece for a while the viewer experiences the sensation that the image seems empty and grotesque. The subjects are negated, cold and stiff, the pictures are artefacts of a deceiving tangibility, Vanitas in its very core sense.

The exhibition itself is supposed to be viewed as a still life: It celebrates the illusion and therefore the genre of painting per se. By alienating reality and the choice of colour, the seemingly familiar topics - intended as sources of heat - turn into sources of cold. Contrasting this is the passion and dedication which the works are based on. They serve as consolation and the source of heat and warmth in Florian Bühler's paintings.

Florian Bühler (*1983 in Lugano, CH) studied Arts at the Zurich University of the Arts. Bühler's work are part of private and public collections, among them the Kunsthau Zürich and the Bank Julius Bär collection.

Raphaella Arnold

For image material and further information please contact the gallery:
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GUIDED TOUR / ART LUNCH in the presence of the artist:
Friday, 9 September & Friday 14 October 2011, 12:15 pm

PREVIEW:
Martina von Meyenburg / Gabi Hamm, 28.10. - 23.12.2011
Opening: Thursday, 27 October, 2011