

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

Florian Bühler

in collaboration with André Willimann and Tieni Burkhalter

HOMO

7 November 2014 - 10 January 2015

Opening: Thursday, 6 November 2014

KATZ CONTEMPORARY Gallery is delighted to present the exhibition entitled *HOMO* with new works by **Florian Bühler** (*1983 in Lugano, Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland) in collaboration with **André Willimann** (*1980 in Zurich, Switzerland, where he also lives and works) and **Tieni Burkhalter** (*1981 in Zurich, Switzerland, where he also lives and works).

The show's title *Homo* (the Latin word "homo" meaning "human being" or "man", the Greek word "homos" meaning "equal" or "same") is also used as a short form of "homogenous", a term which plays an important role in the exhibition since a special kind of homogeneity is palpable in both Bühler's and Willimann's paintings. The exhibition is simultaneously showcased in two places – in the gallery space as well as in a house in Château-Chalon, France, where Florian Bühler has his artist studio. Via a live broadcast by Tieni Burkhalter, Bühler's and Willimann's paintings are projected onto one of our gallery walls. In the second half of the exhibition the pieces will travel from France to Zurich where they will be shown in our gallery as well as in a nearby external exhibition space from 9 December on. Some of the works can only be viewed upon special request due to their X-rated content.

Florian Bühler's work revolves around painting and its inherent power to create its own fractious and at times almost conniving reality. Bühler's signature style is painting that pretends to be realistic. In the way he applies the color, the artist seems to meticulously translate the original model's texture to the canvas. The motives are reproduced so precisely and palpably that the viewer feels as if he or she could actually touch their surfaces. However, upon taking a look from up close, a delicate coat of a nearly invisible down, which covers the different materials, is noticeable. It connects the divergent elements and moves the objects that appear so realistic into an unattainable distance. The paintings become hyper-realistic attestations of a reality that we allegedly believe to know or recognize. How the objects and figures that seem to have derived from our "world of things" actually feel, is suddenly unimaginable, in spite of their visual familiarity. Bühler's elaborate creative process is remarkable: In several work steps, the artist applies multiple coats of paint until the layers form a finished surface. This method as well as his choice of motives is reminiscent of classical painting. Bühler wanders within the categories of portrait, still life and genre painting, while frequently blending these different styles.

André Willimann depicts human beings in his paintings, their different roles and states of being. On the other hand, he shows diffusely lit sceneries and places, the theatrical spaces, in which people attempt to claim their existence. The artist himself describes his style as "escapist romantic".

Tieni Burkhalter mainly produces video works for the set design of the Zurich Opera House, e.g. *The Flying Dutchman* (opera, directed by Andreas Homoki), *A-Life* (ballet, choreography by Douglas Lee) and *Anna Karenina* (ballet, choreographed by Christian Spuck).

Stefanie Schneider

2nd OPENING *Extended Show* & ARTIST TALK

Tuesday, 9 December 2014, from 6 pm
Artist talk at 7.30 pm

For visual material and further information please contact the gallery:
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PREVIEW

Leif Trenkler
January - April 2015