

Steffen Lenk

*Kuckucksei*



"Untitled", 2014, oil on canvas, 130 x 160 cm



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In addition to Leif Trenkler's solo show according to the motto *Kuckucksei* a selection of new works by Steffen Lenk (\*1976, lives and works in Berlin) will be presented. Like already in his first solo show *Vom Fachmann für Kenner* at KATZ CONTEMPORARY the artist is showing paintings, objects and works on paper: But now, just like a cuckoo's egg, the artist lays his works in a different nest, respectively during the exhibition *Indian Sky* with Leif Trenkler his works will be displayed on the basement floor.

Steffen Lenk exhausts the possibilities of oil painting to its full extent, whereby his application of colour varies from being strongly pastose to glazed or pointillist. Apart from canvas he also works on surfaces like prints, glass, OSB, plexiglass or book spines. Lenk uses elements of contemporary pop culture in a humorous and profound way, everyday motives from the media, cartoon – and talk show icons as well as historical images that stand out through an almost aggressively extensive range of colour. A dog adorned with reindeer's antlers covert next to Pink Panther and a giant snake, cowboys fighting with a bear or dressed as bandits on horseback, pixelated representations of a Luchador or a giant dragonfly alighting on a Pin-up Girl. His small objects are made of simple wire constructions which Lenk opaquely covers in oil paint and mounts on wooden pedestals. With their recurring skeletons and skulls the new objects remind us of "danse macabre" figures or the traditional Mexican sweets at the "Día de los Muertos". Lenk cleverly confuses our usual way of seeing with surprising combinations of everyday motives and their artistic transformations.

Stefanie Schneider

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