

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY

GENEVA, Switzerland

ANDRE NIEBUR

Argot & Crayon

Art Brussels, Bruxelles

18-21 April 2013

Gowen Contemporary is delighted to announce a solo exhibition of new works by German artist André Niebur, entitled 'Argot & Crayon'. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Belgium.

Over the past decade, André Niebur has developed a unique visual language resulting in large flat paintings that inhabit a realm of quiet reflection contrasting with playful theatricality. Niebur's chief concerns are with issues of light and colour, constantly wandering between figuration and abstraction, colour and drawing. His subtle yet witty paintings explore the synthesis between object and space, his exhibition of paintings therefore making a foray into installation and sculpture, aiming to extend the physical experience of the large scale painting into a sort of three dimensional drawing.

All paintings are executed with acrylic on canvas. The artist's technique of painting, heavily watered, demands a quick and focused way of painting, similar to watercolour on paper.

Every painting has its roots in figuration. « *The figurative motif is the touchstone for a painting, It is like looking at something and then turning your head away. It's an affirmation of our visual world surrounding us, perpetually appearing and disappearing from our view. ... [my paintings are] this image and representation of something you adore and admire. It surrounds, grabs and dazzles you, but you can't capture it completely. Like a rascal playing a trick on you* » (Niebur, 2012).

Niebur's paintings are artistic moments that literally and figuratively translate the artist's 'coup d'œil', akin to a voyeur's stolen - sometimes transgressive - glimpses of the world.

Niebur's work can be seen as indirectly influenced by the concerns of the Dusseldorf group Zero, in terms of their interest in light and shadow projection, and spectator participation. Another reference point could be the work of Jan Dibbets and his so-called 'perspectival corrections'. Niebur studied at the Dusseldorf Academy under the professorship of Jan Dibbets, a painter turned conceptual photographer, and it is possible to see traces of Dibbets in Niebur's paintings: flat pictorial space is captured and then distorted, or corrected, through confrontation with blocks of colour and perspective lines. Niebur also recognizes the importance of the lesson of the American abstract expressionism in his work. Finally the celebrated Dusseldorf collaborative artist group hobbypopMUSEUM, of which Niebur is a key founding member, has also been a major influence with their potent site-specific installations fusing painting with sound, performance and film.

André Niebur was born in 1973 in Rhede, Germany, and studied at Kunstakademie Dusseldorf 1994-2002. He currently lives and works in Dusseldorf.

Past solo exhibitions include 'Idole Rogue', Gowen Contemporary, Geneva (2012), 'Vague Rampage', Faye Fleming & Partner (now Gowen Contemporary), Geneva (2010); 'Vague Attack', CENTER, Berlin (2009); 'Libertinage', Museum Baden, Sollingen (2008); Galerie Eva Winkeler, Frankfurt (2008); 'Bona to Vada', Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2007). Past group exhibitions include 'Wir Drei. Figurative Painting', the Guggenheim Gallery at Chapman University, Orange, CA, USA (2013). As a member of hobbypopMUSEUM he has exhibited widely, including Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2010); the 1st Athens Biennial (2007); Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel (2007); Deitch Projects, New York (2005); Deste Foundation, Athens (2005); Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw (2004); Galerie Ghislaine Hussenot, Paris (2003); Tate Britain, London (2003).

Recently Niebur concluded a 6 months residence program with the hobbypopMUSEUM group in Mumbai supported by the Kunststiftung NRW and the Goethe Institute Mumbai.

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