

PRESS RELEASE

MATHIAS WILD

AMBIGU

Discourse of the signs

Oil paintings, Gouaches,
Paintings on corrugated cardboard

Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin
Entrance B across the courtyard

June 18, 2016 - July 22, 2016

Opening: June 17, 7 - 9 pm



Mathias Wild, *Grau / Orange*, Gouache, 2013.
Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram, Berlin

Gallery Bernet Bertram is pleased to announce the exhibition of new works of the artist Mathias Wild. Hereby we once again point out the relevance of the painted image.

The exhibition shows a spectrum of recent works of the artist like big gouaches and monotypes and oil paintings in different formats on canvas and cardboard packaging.

Mathias Wild sees himself as a discoverer of the image who forges ahead with his explorations like an essayist. Not only does he develop images from the seen, but also from what is thought, for which he creates formulations with tenderness and passionate criticism, thus pursuing his goal of artistic knowledge with full dedication. Driven by a constant productive restlessness, Wild works with the utmost precision like a clockwork. Initially, he starts from the pictorial sound of a background, a murmuring that is already present just like life itself. Wild follows trails and tracks almost like a nomad while laying new ones himself; he takes poetic detours, breaks off, continues, plays with lucidity, vacant areas which he refers to as 'celestial bodies', thus creating new spaces for thinking and action for himself as well as the viewer.

The entire painting becomes an act of cartography and field of expedition for Wild. His big **compositions in oil** ("Über die Schifffahrt", "Rauhe Diagonale", "Vor dem Blau/Blendung" and "Warmes Schwarz"/On Seafaring, Rough Diagonal, Before the Blue/Glare, Warm Black) are cases and constructions which speak about the whole as well as the various parts of his works. He creates spaces that are mapped out differentially with symbols, spots, colored surfaces and enigmatic objects. The artist turns and moves them around, placing them into a relationship with each other. Different shades of green, violet, purple or gray predominate. But Wild does not employ a color in the simple sense. He positions the colors at a distance to one another and send them into a chromatic discourse. Green flirts with orange, blue with a saturated yellow.

In his **gouache paintings**, which Wild regards as color-drawings, the artist places various motifs on informal backgrounds in two to three virtually cinematic cuts. Here one can find references to Classic Modernism ("Pensées à Matisse") or humorously figurative moments with references to **art brut**. Here Wild also includes alien and rather ugly elements into these images and returns value to colors that had lost their initial significance through their use in advertising, for example.

In his cycle of relief-like works with **oil on corrugated cardboard** he had pursued since 2013, Wild deals with everyday phenomena in objects like "Straße" ("Street"), "Working" and "Picnic". In doing so, Wild uses corrugated cardboard boxes, a packaging material of which every German uses approximately 60 kilograms per year and which already has a personal history for the artist. Flipped open, folded and cut the boxes serve as models onto which the artist applies shapes and quotations. In the process, the oil paint bleeds into the cellulose tissue of the material, mixes with the frequently cheap printing ink on the fragile surface and results in new, oscillating nuances.

The works of Mathias Wild are single pieces since the artist always employs a new approach and an individual production process. This can be seen even more clearly in his monotypes, one of which is represented by a sheet of paper showing a figure in different shades in this exhibition. Here the artist displays the power of his experience. Acting spontaneously and almost blindly, he successfully applies this technique in which print, painting and drawing overlap in quick temporal succession, thus creating an art that can be masterfully summarized as a "Pièce unique".

Mathias Wild was born in Glarus, Switzerland, in 1946. He studied painting with Franz Fedier at the Basel School of Design. He has lived and worked in Berlin since 1970. His works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions since the 1970s, most recently in Brussels, Galerie Parterre, Berlin, the Bielefelder Kunstverein, Zurich, Basel, Bern and at the Kunsthaus Glarus. He has received scholarships from the artists' fund in Bonn, the Senate Chancellery of Cultural Affairs in Berlin and for the residence at the Künstlerhaus Schloss Wiepersdorf. The works of Mathias Wild are represented in different public collections, such as the Kupferstichkabinett of the Staatliche Museen in Berlin, the Berlinische Galerie, the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Bonn, the Federal Office of Culture in Bern, Switzerland, and the collection of the Crédit Suisse Group in Zurich.

Artist Talk with Mathias Wild
Thursday, June 30, 2016, at 7 pm.

Current Exhibition
Until June 15, 2016 **Angela Dwyer - Lustra**

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Opening hours
Tuesday - Friday from 12 - 6 pm
Saturday from 12 - 4 pm and by appointment.