

## Press Release

## BERNARD FÖLL Recent Works

June 22 - July 27 and August 20 – 31, 2019

Preview: Friday, June 21, 2019, 6 - 9 pm

Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

The artist is present



Bernard Föll, *New Branding*, 2017 (Detail)  
Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram

Galerie Bernet Bertram is pleased to draw your attention to the exhibition of works by **Bernard Föll**. The latest paintings by the Berlin artist will be shown, works with brush and stencils on canvas and cardboard in various formats.

As an artist, Bernard Föll is both a collector and an explorer who selects pictorial elements from an abundance of found and experienced, incorporates them into his work and transfers them into a new space. There he arranges them in other constellations and creates pictorial assemblages full of multi-layered allusions to time and world events.

### Assemblage as panel painting

As materials for his allegorical arrangements, Föll uses motifs from the mass media, magazines, advertising, manuals, comics, fashion magazines, but also from everyday life and distant or past cultures, from the world of games and sports. Thus the canvas work *Nichts geht mehr* (2017) takes up the language of casinos and oscillates between Talmi, horror, science fiction and theological iconography. A large roulette wheel with floating rows of numbers shares the picture with a Lolita figure from a 70s porn comic, whose breasts are sucked by a bad vampire. The plaits of the heroine mutate to a crown of thorns in another place, she herself enthrones like a Madonna in a corona with her eyes torn open. In the overpainting *Außenseiter* (2017), the roulette reappears in connection with a reddish-brown horse galloping onto the circle. The underdog no one bets on but the big winner. On smaller works we meet then repeatedly a donkey. The picture *Der Unterhändler* (2016) shows him in oriental grace passing the failing British parliamentarian in the erupting Syrian conflict. In *Face of Age* (also 2016) he is placed again upside down together with a figure with a rollator. An allusion to the ageing of societies, perhaps the ageing of the world in general.

### Cutting, bonding, copying, terry toweling: Street Art for home

Striking elements, letters, numbers, signs and pictograms are used on the basis of a sophisticated stencil and frottage technique. On dark grounds, which Bernard Föll divides into rectangles and squares, the actual work on the composition begins with cardboard stencils, which the artist cuts himself and allows as independent, repetitive forms. Here he goes back to the tradition of silhouette cutting. The technique of nitrofrottage serves him to transfer what he has found into the picture. In his collages, coloured surfaces often receive the structure of textiles, tie patterns, wood grain and complement his painting.

*Bystanders* - spectators - is a work named in blue, brown, pink and yellow tones. In front of a background painted in great detail, it shows a group of beard bearers with hanging arms, camly, even

casually looking out of the picture at something outside him. Passively pausing, indifferent spectators before the drama of world affairs ?

Thematically, Föll keeps the politically unambiguous at a distance. Often, his cut, surface-like figures lead us into intermediate worlds, waiting states, to picture divisions and picture resolutions that suspend the plot.

Other works show Föll's turn towards abstraction, which he nevertheless combines with figurative elements. *New Branding* (2017), in front of green-red-yellow patches of colour, shadowily suggests a dark figure in front of a computer-generated figure slides. A look into the future of robotics and artificial intelligence ? Appearance of a new species the "human brand" ?

Text: Christian Bertram

**Bernard Föll**, born 1954 in Stuttgart, made in the first instance Super 8 films in Berlin at the beginning of the 80s and was cofounder of the film group "Best Boys Connection". Soon afterwards, however, he turned to the visual arts with his first works on paper and with collages, and from the mid-90s with painting on canvas. In 1998 Bernard Föll also worked as curator at the Haus am Lützowplatz in Berlin, 2000 as initiator and curator of the Cheap Art project "Hundert 20" and the exhibition series "interlink (art Space #1)". In 2002 Föll received a scholarship from the artist colony "Kriva Palanka" in Macedonia. Works by Bernard Föll have been exhibited for over 30 years in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Liverpool, Rome, Vienna, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Berlin, where he lives and works.

**Events of the gallery in July and August**

**Friday, July 26, 2019, 7:30 pm**  
**The Honorable Herman Melville**  
**Reading with Friedhelm Ptok and Christian Bertram**  
**for the 200th birthday of the great Author**

**Thursday, August 22, 2019, 8 pm**  
**Artist talk with Bernard Föll**

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