

GALLERY N. VON BARTHA

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A PAINTING

Works by Stephan Baumkötter, Tom Benson, Andreas Karl Schulze and Ulrich Wellmann

Curated by Tom Benson

October 14th until November 15th, 2003

Gallery N. von Bartha is pleased to announce the forthcoming exhibition, A Painting, which will feature the work of three contemporary German artists, Stephan Baumkötter, Andreas Karl Schulze, Ulrich Wellmann & British artist Tom Benson. This is the first time these artists have collaborated, and the first time that any of the three German artists have exhibited in England.

The exhibition will open on Tuesday October 14th from 6 to 9pm & continue until November 15th 2003. It will travel to the Fruchthalle, Kaiserslautern, Germany from January to February 2004.

Stephan Baumkötter's work gives rise to the development of a specific way of looking at a subject which no longer identifies any fixed forms; (shapes, colors, compositions), but instead provokes and allows an interplay of visual shifts, deviations, and minimal differences. His colour is a melded tertiary mix, applied by hand, stroke by stroke. These marks coalesce into a mottled field, resulting from a working process that uses white spirit to mix his medium, directly on the canvas. Up close, areas of waxy velvet sheen intertwine with faint hints of high keyed colour buried in the surface, creating topographies of chromatic intrigue.

Tom Benson's paintings are shaped by an understanding of the self defining qualities of materials: the action of colour & the properties of the pigment - from which he makes his paint, to the nature of the support & its size & scale in relation to a volume of colour. Rectilinear in format & painted by hand to uniform finish, the initial impression of the works' conceptual clarity slowly gives way to an awareness of the exacting care & attention to detail that has gone into the making of each painting. How these elements are combined & exist in relation to a space, & the perceptual & sensory responses of the viewer are a part of the works intricacy.

Andreas Karl Schulze's works are in essence a calibration between a thing seen & our experience of the character of a place. He uses small pieces of painted, square coloured canvas, as part of an open-ended process. Attached directly to a surface (wall, tree, window, etc) in situ, they don't so much draw attention to themselves as ameliorate the starkness of the act of looking.

Ulrich Wellmann's tactile paintings negotiate a subtle exchange between two colours. Large loosely brushed scumbled volumes, made of a single colour, expand across the surface of his paintings. A second colour applied with a relatively small brush is then added over & into the first. The marks of the second colour provide anchor points for the coloured space of the initial colour & engage it in a dialogue of definitions.

A book, documenting the work of these four artists is currently being prepared & will be published in early 2004.

For images or further information please contact Niklas or Daniela von Bartha
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