

Beat Zoderer – *um 5 Ecken herum (around 5 corners)*

April 6 – May 27, 2017



Räumliches Pentagramm N°1, 2016, airplane cardboard, acrylic, 134 x 82,5 x 22 cm

Internationally acclaimed Swiss artist Beat Zoderer exhibits at von Bartha, Basel. Over the past four decades, Zoderer's ever-evolving artistic style has seen him explore the qualities of the grid - through the manipulation of pattern and negative space, and the repetitive combination of uniform elements - and experiment with the properties of industrially produced materials. The artist explains:

“It is good to have the freedom to change directions from time to time. I start something and as soon as I see that a work unexpectedly develops into a different direction, which I have not intended – it is ok. I think this has to do with how I approach a new work in the research laboratory and the complete freedom of experimentation.”

Through a complex process of removal and addition, organisation and re-adjustment, Zoderer explores the potential of grid systems, often disturbing or interfering with their composition; faults, omissions or chaos allow the regularity to become more apparent and even more effective. Using a range of readily available materials such as wood, sheet metal and office supplies, Zoderer creates sculptures, room installations, drawings and paintings. Exploring the material's inherent possibilities, Zoderer poses formal questions that lead to ingenious and often ironic visual experiences. He materialises his ideas within authentic and direct gestures, indulging an enthusiasm for luminous ready-made colours, and for the diverse characteristics of the material itself. The imper-

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fections of his constructions are clearly visible - an essential characteristic of Zoderer's work - small surface irregularities, or so-called "surprises", are integral to the artistic process.

The title of the exhibition; "um 5 Ecken herum" ("Around 5 Corners") refers to two-dimensional shapes, consisting of five angles and five sides. Starting his works with scalene pentagrams, Zoderer creates various complex sculptures and wall objects. The repetitive combination of these uniform, geometric polygons results in irregular plastic objects, which consciously provoke the attention of the spectator through their manipulation of negative space.

Born in Zurich in 1955, Zoderer currently lives and works in Wettingen.

Zoderer completed an apprenticeship as an architectural draftsman and worked in architectural offices from 1971–78. Since 1979 he has worked as an independent artist. In 1995 he was awarded the Manor Art Prize and in 1998 he received an award from the Max Bill / Georges Vantongerloo Foundation, Zumikon, Zurich.

His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions around the world, most notably Mies van der Rohe Haus, Berlin, Germany (2016); Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, USA (2013); Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland (2008) and Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany (2003). His work is held in many public collections including Kunsthaus Zurich, Kunstmuseum Bonn and Kunstsammlung der Julius Bär, Bank Julius Bär, Credit Suisse Collection, Cisneros Collection Miami Beach and Caldic Collection Rotterdam.

About von Bartha

Since opening in 1970, von Bartha has exhibited modern and contemporary artists across historically significant movements such as Zero, Arte Concreto and Arte Madí. Representing over twenty artists and estates, the program includes contemporary artists in a dialogue with Kinetic art and Concrete art.

As a long-running, international and contemporary art gallery, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists, such as Camille Graeser, Olle Baertling and Adolf Luther. Building on its foundation, the gallery has established a contemporary program and represents an international roster of artists, working across a diverse range of media: Daniel Robert Hunziker, Imi Knoebel, Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Felipe Mujica, Sarah Oppenheimer and Landon Metz. Therefore, the gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists.

Initially co-founded by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha, since 2008 the gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha. The gallery's relocation and expansion to a converted garage at Kannenfeldplatz has allowed for full-scale exhibitions, including large-scale installations, performances and retrospectives. In 2006 von Bartha opened a second space, located in S-chanf, in the Engadin Alps; the white cube space, in the site of a former barn of an old patrician house, is used for focused projects and site-specific installations.

Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own newspaper; featuring commissioned essays and interviews.

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Exhibition Facts

Title: um 5 Ecken herum

Address: von Bartha, Kannenfeldplatz 6, 4056, Basel, Switzerland

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Website: www.vonbartha.com

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Dates: April 6 – May 27 / 2017

Preview: April 5 2017, 6-8 pm

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 2 – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 4pm, or by appointment

Admission: Free

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