

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster berlin

10 YEARS

Christian August | Enrico Bach | Bram Braam | Alex Feuerstein | Hirofumi Fujiwara | Nina Laaf

Simon Pfeffel | Nina Röder | Finja Sander | Gary Schlingheider | Maria Schumacher | Markus F. Strieder

Opening and Performance

Thursday 4. July 2024, 6 – 9 pm

Exhibition

4. July – 17. August 2024

10 YEARS – we are delighted to celebrate the tenth anniversary of galerie burster with the upcoming exhibition. In autumn 2014, the gallery opened its first location at Kurfürstendamm 213 with a performance by artist Simon Pfeffel. After six successful years at this address, a new chapter began in early 2021. With the exhibition NEW NEIGHBOURS, fittingly marking the move to a new neighborhood, the gallery's program started at Ludwigkirchstraße 11. Since then, it has showcased solo and group exhibitions, along with the SHOT# series, which provides a platform for experimental formats through short exhibitions.

10 YEARS brings together all twelve artists represented by the gallery for the first time. Each of them has significantly influenced the gallery over the years and represents the diverse range of contemporary art across various media such as sculpture, performance, photography, and both abstract and figurative painting. With their diverse approaches and perspectives, they invite viewers to reflect not only on the past but also to look forward to the future:

Christian August's (*1977 in Halle (Saale), Germany, lives in Berlin) abstract worlds of colour glow and bubble, diffuse, organic and alternating between loud and quiet, rough and smooth on the surface of the picture, and seem so ethereal that you want to reach into the picture to try out where the haze of colour ends and the material begins. While his earlier pictorial compositions seem almost weightless, without top or bottom, time or space, and thus evoke associations with an idealised idea of the universe, August has arrived in an intermediate world in his latest atmospheric colour landscapes, which also have something dystopian about them in their impressive colour intensity and spectrum.

Enrico Bach's (*1980 in Leipzig) paintings are a self-reflection on fundamental questions of pictorial architecture: in his compositions, depth of space meets colorful surface painting and two-dimensionality meets spatial constructions. Bach's layered areas of color and pattern create the illusion of a more or less deep space. At the same time, he abandons the conventional compositional pattern of a centered motif: the edges and background of the picture become deeper levels, often overlaid by large monochrome, but not homogeneous surfaces. Enrico Bach completed his master's degree in 2011 at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe under Prof. Gustav Kluge. The artist lives and works in Karlsruhe.

Bram Braam (*1980 in Sittard, Netherlands), who is inspired by the harsh environment of Berlin, reflects his personal view of urban facades and their fragments in his work. His works open up a narrative about the rapid and unrestrained development of the city and, in their pictorial compositions, show a new perspective on architectural constructions, decay, and new construction of urban living spaces that characterise our view of the city. Bram Braam studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Den Bosch, Netherlands. Bram Braam is a scholarship holder of the Mondriaan Fund and lives in Berlin

Alex Feuerstein's (*1981 in Heidelberg) paintings depict abstract, bizarre and stubborn scenes that oscillate between fiction and reality. Banal perspectives change into dreamlike sequences that are left so wide open and alienated that they cannot be clearly assigned in terms of time or space. He completed his painting studies in 2013 at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe as a master student of Prof. Erwin Gross. Alex Feuerstein lives and works in Karlsruhe and the Odenwald.

Hirofumi Fujiwara's (*1984, Hiroshima, Japan) figures, modelled in clay and plastic, stand, sit or lie in space, at rest in themselves, transparent walls surround their fragile bodies. Fujiwara's Neutopians are enthusiasts; they bear witness to a romantic longing for the unattainable, they move between worlds. Their contemplative gaze directed towards the indeterminate, they carry with them references of Japanese as well as European-Western culture. They seem youthful and yet ageless, androgynous and detached from any stereotypes - isolated from this world, yet anchored in the moment, in being-so. In our ever faster moving, ever modification-oriented society, Fujiwara's Neutopians embody both longing and ideal. Hirofumi Fujiwara graduated in 2015 as a master student of Prof. Stephan Balkenhol at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe. He lives and works in Hamburg.

Nina Laaf (*1977 in Hilden) deals in her work with strategies of irritation, alienation, context shifting and questioning visual habits. In her artistic work, she examines material qualities and their limits. Her latest works are characterised by a play between presence and absence and the question of what constitutes the actual, the essential, the original in colour and form. She completed her master's degree at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe under Prof. Harald Klingelhöller in 2017. In 2018, the artist received the Hanna Nagel Prize Karlsruhe and was a scholarship holder at the Cité Internationale Des Arts Paris in 2019. Nina Laaf lives and works in Karlsruhe.

In his performative works, which mostly take place in public space, **Simon Pfeffel** (*1985 in Nuremberg) explores his physical and mental limits. Detached from the closed exhibition space, he uses the public space as a workshop for his interactions, breaks up the distribution of roles between viewers and participants, and allows passers-by, observers, voyeurs, or participants to become part of his performances, which often last several hours. Most recently, Pfeffel's performances and works were shown at the Sprengel Museum Hannover, Museum of Modern Art Moscow, Palais de Tokyo Paris, ZKM Karlsruhe, Museum für Neue Kunst Freiburg and Kunstmuseum Singen. Simon Pfeffel received the prestigious Hannes Malte Mahler Prize in 2022 and the Förderpreis der Kunststiftung Rainer Wild der Kunsthalle Mannheim (shortlist) in 2021. Pfeffel received, among others, a scholarship from the Ministry of Science, Research and Art Baden-Württemberg, the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg, as well as a scholarship from the state of Baden-Württemberg for the Cité Internationale des Arts Paris.

Nina Röder (*1983 in Neuendettelsau, lives in Berlin) is not only a sensitive observer of her environment, for whom reflected concepts and technical perfection in execution are important, but also a connoisseur of theatrical means, which are incorporated into her art in the form of staged settings and performative strategies. A central point of her artistic and ideological reflection is the alienation of modern individuals from their natural conditions and their social circumstances as well as its counterpart: the longing for home and security. (Dr. Kai Uwe Schierz)

Finja Sander (*1996, Hildesheim, Germany, lives in Berlin) chooses the medium of performance as a recurring constant in her work. She searches for breaks and ambivalences in the everyday, for unnoticed automatisms, which she picks out, isolates and brings into new contexts within multi-part processes. Her own body is a source of inspiration, a catalyst, a kind of seismograph. Strategies of staging and exaggerating gestures deepen and stabilise her performative theses. These develop into expansive, site-specific sculptures, installations and accompanying photographic works. (Nikolas Geier)

Painting and sculpture are mutually dependent in the work of **Gary Schlingheider** (*1983, Detmold) and arise from the preoccupation with the transgression of boundaries between the two genres. Colour and form form the focus of the painter and sculptor's work. He works in large formats, with powerful opaque colours and geometric, reduced bodies. With a reference to art historical models such as the Minimalists, Ellsworth Kelly or Frank Stella, Schlingheider explores the boundaries between painting and sculpture anew. Gary Schlingheider completed his studies at the Universität der Künste Berlin as a master student of Prof. Christine Streuli in 2017. He is the winner of the Manfred Fuchs Prize 2021, the Loth Sculpture Prize of art KARLSRUHE 2020 and the Difrung Prize for Sculpture 2017. He lives and works in Berlin and Ostwestfalen-Lippe.

In her paintings, **Maria Schumacher** (*1983, Bucharest, Romania, lives in Leipzig) deals with the creation of narrative-psychological spaces within which she explores the complexity of relationship structures and, more generally, the fundamental questions of human existence. States such as loneliness, fear, grief, love and sexuality and their universal nature preoccupy her just as much as the use of patterns, ornamental arrangements and the ritualistic charging of signs and symbols. Folkloristic references that can be found in her works have their origins not least in Schumacher's Romanian origins and her involvement with Balkan folk art. Her works create a meditative space that challenges a slowed-down aesthetic perception and at the same time invites the viewer to engage with existential questions of meaning.

Markus F. Strieder (*1961 in Innsbruck, Austria) lets the material speak. Pure and immediate, the sensual power of form and material unfolds in his works. A power at rest in itself and yet dynamic, on paper, in space and does not need many words.

For further information please contact Rita Burster: mail@galerieburster.com

Opening hours: Thursday – Friday 12 – 6 pm and by appointment