

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster karlsruhe

Christian August | Unknown Territory

11 September – 20 November 2021

Simon Pfeffel | Becoming Mountains

Performance at 5 pm

Opening zum Galerientag Karlsruhe

Saturday 11 September 2021 from 3 – 8 pm

We are pleased to present *Unknown Territory*, the first solo exhibition by Christian August at galerie burster karlsruhe.

Christian August's abstract expressive color compositions move in the play of intuitively and in a fast ductus set gray and pastel color, gradients and strictly monochrome surfaces.

Almost like a white noise, the diffuse noise of colors lies underneath and next to the monochrome surfaces, which sometimes act like a resting antipole to the complex background noise. While this basic noise in August's earlier works usually moves on a scale of gray tones, overlaid by clearly defined areas in the radiant blue tone that is significant for him, other frequencies are also added, especially in his latest works with soft pastel to loud red tones, making the noise appear sometimes soft and quiet, sometimes strong and intense.

August sometimes dispenses with monochrome color surfaces in his latest works – there he interrupts and superimposes the diffusely rushing color worlds solely through energetic, intuitive and above all spontaneous gestures.

Just as his works are created in rapid physical motion, they also remain in motion for the viewer: his worlds of color glow and bubble, diffusely, organically, and alternately loud and quiet, rough and smooth on the surface of the picture, and at the same time seem so ethereal that one wants to reach into the picture to try out where the color haze ends, and the material begins.

August consciously accepts the fact that the use of rapid motion sequences also means getting involved in randomness: He is interested in finding beauty in banality, despite or precisely because of spontaneity, whether in painting, his wall collages, or his inspirational field of the city.

For this, it's worth taking a glance at August's Instagram stories: He often records random impressions of urban scenes, fleeting snapshots that can be read like a digital sketchbook and show his delight in chance and aesthetics. He makes the sublime visible in the everyday and forms subtle quotations, which, like his color worlds, oscillate between spontaneity and complexity.

In this way, his works are closely related to the reality of our lives today – for us, too, meaning, aesthetic statement or simply the beauty of a moment is formed in a very individual, spontaneous way. This is what makes August's works so fascinatingly related to our own being.

Christian August (*1977 in Halle/Saale) studied at Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle as a student of Gerhard Schwarz. Under his alias KID CASH, August has been active as an urban artist since the 1990s. He is founder and member of the artist group KLUB7, founded in 1998. In 2017 he received a scholarship from the Kunststiftung Sachsen-Anhalt. August lives and works in Berlin.

During the opening, Simon Pfeffel (*1985 in Nürnberg, Germany) will present his performance *Becoming Mountains*. Pfeffel studied until 2014 at the State Academies of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe and Stuttgart by Prof. Silvia Bächli, Christian Jankowski, John Bock and Leni Hoffmann. This year, Simon Pfeffel was the first recipient of the international, highly endowed art prize [Hannes Malte Mahler - it is art®](#). Within this framework, the artist will show 100 interactive performances on 100 days in Hanover from 8.7.-15.10.2022 in collaboration with the Sprengel Museum Hanover.

The performance *Becoming Mountains* will be executed by Simon Pfeffel starting at 5 pm in front of the gallery space at Baumeisterstraße 4 in Karlsruhe. In his performances, Pfeffel interacts directly with people in public space - Corona conditionally under difficult conditions.

"In my artistic practice, I create situations whose attraction for me lies in the fact that the development and the goal are not foreseeable at the beginning, because decisions are not borne by me alone. My performances are starting points for human relationships, during which I become increasingly passive and cede control of the situation piece by piece to the recipients. To the same extent, the sense of responsibility of these people and our relationship of trust with each other develops, the resilience of which is tested over the duration of my actions." (Simon Pfeffel)

Complementing the performance in public space in front of the galleries, Simon Pfeffel will bring further works into the exhibition space. For this purpose, the artist uses the technology of virtual reality (VR) glasses to show a selection of earlier performances, recorded with 360° cameras. The viewer has the impression of being present "live" and in 3D at the artistic actions. In this way, his new performance *Becoming Mountains* will also be documented and presented to the visitors via the VR glasses during the exhibition.

For further information please contact Miriam Schwarz: miriam@galerieburster.com

Opening hours

Wednesday – Friday 2 – 6 pm

Saturday 12 – 3 pm and by appointment

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