

Marcel Frey - Perforythme

11 June - 30 July 2016

Marcel Frey's new works on paper are image constructions of the most fascinating kind. The artist calls the series "Perforythme", a French sounding neologism that perfectly captures the works' aesthetic. What we see can best be described as a game of deception between surface and fold: over and over again the pictorial space topples into the plane of the image surface, seeming to allow one to see through the picture, or folded edges create the impression of sculptural arrangements. The picture ensembles contain virtually no fixed points of reference. Instead, the eyes glide over textures and grids that shift in varying degrees from the horizontal to the vertical.

The images demand the viewer's close attention, as how closely one regards the images determines to a great extent what is perceived. Viewing becomes a visual reconstruction, tracing the process of creation that yielded the works, which is no less complex. For "Perforythme" Frey utilises perforated metal plates as spray paint stencils, creating patterns on paper that are then cut, folded and shaped into sculptural arrangements. These arrangements are in turn inserted into the surface of the image by means of photography and print. The final picture is thus not just the result of continual reworking and transformation, but an assemblage of different image forms that have come a long way - from sculpture to photography to the final printed graphic form.

It is precisely such chains of transformation that characterize Frey's artistic method. His works are always motivated by the search for a way to translate materials or objects into pictorial compositions. The same is true of his sculptural works, for which he acquires items of furniture like coffee tables or bookshelves in order to place them in new arrangements in the exhibition space. At times the interventions are quite minimal, for example when a coffee table is turned upside down, but they can also be more drastic, such as when different items of furniture are taken apart and pieced together to create new objects.

In this exhibition Marcel Frey presents the entire spectrum of his working materials. More than this, however, he demonstrates the virtuosity with which he is able to turn these materials into images.

Christina Landbrecht

Marcel Frey (b. 1980 in Mönchengladbach) lives in Karlsruhe.

He studied at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe and was a master student under Silvia Bächli. Solo exhibitions of his works have been held at the Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe, the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart, at Bruch & Dallas in Cologne and at the Centre Culturel Franco-Allemand in Karlsruhe. His works have been included in numerous group exhibitions in such institutions as the Museum Biedermann in Donaueschingen, the Kunsthaus Baselland and the Kunstverein Freiburg. In 2013 and 2014 Marcel Frey was awarded grants from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the state of Baden-Württemberg for the Cité International des Arts in Paris.

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