



Joachim Bandau - Watercolors
17 October - 14 November 2020

Galerie Thomas Fischer presents an exhibition of Joachim Bandau's watercolors in collaboration with ANDREAS MURKUDIS.

While Joachim Bandau has been making black watercolor paintings since the early 1980s, the works in this exhibition originated later across a time span of fifteen years from 2003 until 2018. There is something particular to the selected works, not only in terms of scale but moreover in how space is produced by the artist's painting procedure. Whilst the earlier works from the 1980s have a rougher and more expressive touch, the focus here lies on a decisive delineation of space and perspective and the way the grey rectangular surfaces are superimposed on top of each other, offering the viewer a deepening black space.

The selected works consist of two large works, a medium-sized diptych, and several light grey object-like representations, all of which retain their abstraction. The painted layering of the rectangular surfaces in these works show a connection in terms of their constitution: firstly by observing the hardened water lines on the edges making visible the history of the process of the works' creation, and, secondly, the playful use of the rectangles' sizes, that simulate a three-dimensional space.

Bandau's technique asks for a distinct way of viewing his paintings. In the large works and the diptych, he overlays twenty or more rectangles which enforce the central perspective by reducing or enlarging the size of the rectangles each time to a vanishing point, like a doorway or a portal. The repeating painted surfaces collapse into one other by a reduction. Due to the continuous overlaying of shades of grey, the central space becomes black. The surface is voided out; not by leaving the white space of paper open to erasure but by blacking out or filling up. The large black surfaces produce reflections to the extent that the viewer is reflected in the glass of the framed works.

In the subtle, object-like representations, skewed rectangles are placed side by side and in the front and back to suggest in their overall effect an upright floating box. It is almost as if the objects are being squished by the edges of the paper. Part of the beauty of these latter image constructions lies in the minute overlap of the hardened water lines - or in how the water lines almost don't touch. The space that the artist produces is one related to his technique but also to a necessary reading by the viewer.

Bandau's watercolors epitomize an idiosyncratic approach to creating images. This is a medium-specific activity defined by the bespoke brushes he uses and the way he organizes his gestures of painting to create an intricate space. Each painted rectangle (or each gesture) is a small event which needs to dry and the works themselves become documents of the process. The artist conditions the medium to make us look at the space (of time) in an intricate and simulated way.

Text: Kasper Andreasen, September 2020

Joachim Bandau (born in 1936 in Cologne) lives in Aachen and Stäfa.

He studied from 1957 to 1960 at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at Neues Museum, Nuremberg, and Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen. Joachim Bandau's works have been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Kunsthalle Basel, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Städtische Kunsthalle Mannheim, Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Sculpture Center, New York, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, and documenta 6. His watercolors are included in the renowned collections of the Drawing Centers in Berlin, Dresden, Munich and Vienna.

In January 2021 an overview of Joachim Bandau's sculptures and related drawings from the period 1967-1974 will be on view in a solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Basel.

The exhibition is on view at ANDREAS MURKUDIS, Potsdamer Strasse 77 in Berlin-Tiergarten.
Opening hours: Wed-Sat, 11-6 pm.

Galerie Thomas Fischer

+49 30 74 78 03 85
mail@galeriethomasfischer.de
galeriethomasfischer.de

