

Press Release
19 January, 2009



Constantinople or The Sensual Concealed The Imagery of Sean Scully

**Invitation to Press Conference
On Wednesday, 18 February, 2009, at 11 am
Duration: 19 February - 3 May 2009**

MKM Museum Küppersmühle
für Moderne Kunst
Philosophenweg 55
47051 Duisburg (Innenhafen)
www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de
Telefon 02 03 / 30 19 48 -11/ -12/ -13
Telefax 02 03 / 30 19 48 -21
office@museum-kueppersmuehle.de

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sean Scully (*1945), the internationally acclaimed Irish painter, maintaining studios in New York, Barcelona and on the outskirts of Munich, is staging a comprehensive retrospective of his work from **19 February to 3 May 2009** in the MKM Museum Küppersmühle. "Constantinople or Sensuality Concealed" presents some 60 works and groups of works, arranged thematically in separate rooms, which afford a comprehensive insight into the artist's creative output. You are cordially invited to attend the **press conference and preview** of the exhibition in the MKM **at 11 am. on 18 February**. The artist will be present and available for interviews.

In his work, Scully combines European and American pictorial traditions. His abstract paintings are possessed of an austere pictorial structure, divided up into grids by contrasting coloured stripes, bars and fields, which penetrate or overlap each other. At the same time, the haptic quality of his paintings captivates the viewer: a concealed sensuality evokes a rich world of imagery, which whilst remaining elusive, is always present and arouses curiosity. In this way, Scully succeeds in encapsulating emotions, atmospheres, associations and 'images' within his abstract compositions. Titles such as "Darkness and Heat", "Happy Days", "Königin der Nacht" or "Mirror Silver" underscore the narrative moment. "It is this intimation of the real world, of the objects, of the countless stories lying beyond, beneath and between the geometrical form of the rectangle – which characterise the enormous power of the paintings of Sean Scully". Of this Susanne Kleine, the curator of the exhibition, is convinced.

Scully continually explores the underlying foundations of abstraction by highlighting the intrinsic value of the artistic means – the aesthetics of pure form, pure surface and pure colour - and placing it at the heart of his work. As Sean Scully himself stated in an interview for the exhibition catalogue: “My paintings talk of relationships. How bodies come together. How they touch. How they separate. How they live together, in harmony and disharmony. The character of bodies changes constantly through my work. According to color. The opacity and transparency of how the surface is made. This gives it its character and its nature. Its edge defines its relationship to its neighbor and how it exists in context. My paintings want to tell stories that are an abstracted equivalent of how the world of human relationships is made and unmade. How it is possible to evolve as a human being, in this.”

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heart-felt gratitude to the Sal. Oppenheim bank, the GEBAG Duisburg and Willis GmbH & Co. KG. The organisation has been entrusted into the capable hands of the Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V. Bonn. Accompanying the exhibition is a **catalogue published by Prestel Verlag**, featuring an extensive colour-illustrated section, an interview with the artist and an essay by Susanne Kleine.

We look forward to welcoming you to the press conference in MKM and to answering any questions you may have. Copyright-free illustrated material from the exhibition can be downloaded free of charge from the Press Section of our website at www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de.

Warmest regards



Tina Franke
MKM / Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V.