

RALPH FLECK:
Transgressing Painterly Boundaries

Opening: Thu, February 26, 2015, 7 pm
Duration: February 27 – April 26, 2015

MKM Museum Küppersmühle
für Moderne Kunst
Philosophenweg 55
47051 Duisburg (Innenhafen)
www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de
Telefon 02 03/30 19 48 -10/-11
Telefax 02 03/30 19 48 -21
office@museum-kueppersmuehle.de

As virtually no other, the Freiburg-domiciled artist Ralph Fleck (born 1951) has consistently and uncompromisingly negotiated the narrow line between realistic and abstract figuration, and, in so doing, forged a gamut of visual experiences which often only reveal their cosmos on closer study.

In what is a German première, the Museum Küppersmühle is now presenting a retrospective of his work, which showcases his painterly exploration and transformation of real structures and architectures, such as Alpine scenery, seascapes, landscapes, cityscapes, meadows and still-lives. In his work, the boundaries between nature (ie. the natural forms and structures) and architecture (ie. the constructed “artificial” forms and structures) appear to dissipate or merge into a unified entity; his painterly gestures range from expressive brush strokes to the controlled and judicious application of colour planes.

So what are the defining elements of Ralph Fleck’s visual language? The rigorous interrogation of (visual) structures and our concept of reality? The exploration of the boundaries between figurative and abstract painting? The lack of any genuine representational function by virtue of the segmentation and the – characteristic – painterly concentration on structural forms and colours, which always retain their link to reality – ie. remain identifiable and readable – yet which due to the heightened dramatisation and unremitting focus melt into abstraction?

All the painting have their origins in the captured image: Beginning with the vast body of photographs which Ralph Fleck necessarily takes himself (for even here the enquiring eye of the artist, and thus his hallmark, is essential), his next step is to select the photo material which he then processes into the act of painting with his customary passion and intensity.

Over the course of his artistic career, Ralph Fleck has formulated a language of form in which reduction, addition and repetition as the serial moment feature strongly. This exhibition charts the path embarked upon by this uncompromising artist and highlights how his artistic gesture and distinctive style constitute the transgression of painterly boundaries.

Organization / Sponsoring

The exhibition „Ralph Fleck: Transgressing Painterly Boundaries“ is organized by the Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur in Bonn, curated by Susanne Kleine and kindly supported by Sparkasse Duisburg.

Accompanying the exhibition is a comprehensive catalogue essays by Thomas Ebers and Susanne Kleine as well as an interview with Ralph Fleck, in conversation with Walter Smerling [158 pages, 140 images, 25,- € museum edition, Köln: Wienand Verlag, 2015, ISBN: 978-3-86832-252-1]

Press images:

<http://www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de/en/press/images/ralph-fleck-transgressing-painterly-boundaries/>

Kontakt: Kerstin Weinhold / Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V. +++ Viktoriastr. 26 +++ 53173 Bonn
Tel 0228-934 55 -18 +++ Fax -20 +++ k.weinhold@stiftungkunst.de +++ www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de/presse