

Tim Eitel

Vie imaginaire, chapitre II: Ensemble

Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin

April 28 - June 5, 2021



Tim Eitel, *La Séance*, 2021,
Oil and egg tempera on canvas, 240 x 195 cm
Photo: Jean-Louis Losi

"Art is the opposite of general ideas, it describes individuals, desires only the unique. It does not classify, it unclassifies."

Marcel Schwob, *Imaginary Lives*, 1896

There are certain aspects in the work of Tim Eitel that return time and again: the solitude of the characters and their silence, the image framed as a disquieting illusion, or the co-existence of figuration and fields of abstraction that open up the pictorial space and grant it autonomy. The paintings often manifest a fading of the real world, comparable maybe to the films of Michelangelo Antonioni, and the emerging emptiness offers a form of introspection in which psychological tensions unwind and ease in the face of the void.

And yet this second chapter in Eitel's collection of imaginary lives—staged three years after the first at the same gallery—achieves a marked coming-together, more in the style of Éric Rohmer, and a new proximity between protagonists. In these recent paintings, a sense of touch comes to the fore, an attention for others. A beard is being trimmed, a private physiotherapy session conducted on a bed, a neighborly couple observe us across the landing. The scenes are derived from the fabric of everyday life and at first seem perfectly innocuous. Yet the attitudes, the gestures, the glances of the figures bear witness to a concern that speaks to the sheer necessity of being together. In the heart of the pandemic, which has seen social bonds become a scarce commodity, Tim Eitel chooses to focus on everything that points implicitly to the importance of human contact. If some fields of monochrome still appear, they underline the tightening, narrowing points of view. The bands of color can be interpreted as doorways, yet they always remain on the threshold of an abstraction continuing to haunt these scenes of human interrelations.

The paintings still carry the ghostly sense of presence that has characterized Eitel's work for years. There is the scene of a woman lying beside a dog, taking a brief nap, in which the strong visual bond between the two figures is rendered by means of the brushwork uniting the woman's hair and the dog's fur. Tim Eitel's interest in these figures hovers between fiction and reality. There is an implicit element at work, an oblique way of testifying to the constant porosity between unconscious and material life. One again finds a dimension of impenetrability running through the scenes the artist composes, but this time permeated by a dream-like closeness. These days, it is certainly a question of remembering what we really hold dear.

Fabien Danesi

Galerie EIGEN + ART
Gerd Harry Lybke

Geschäftsführer: Gerd Harry Lybke. Partner/business management: Kerstin Wahala. www.eigen-art.com
Berlin. Auguststraße 26, 10117 Berlin. Telefon +49 30 280 66 05. berlin@eigen-art.com
Leipzig. Spinnerstraße 7, Halle 5, 04179 Leipzig. Telefon +49 341 960 78 86. leipzig@eigen-art.com
Lab. Torstraße 220, 10115 Berlin. Telefon +49 30 308 779 40. lab@eigen-art.com

Biography

1971 born in Leonberg
 lives and works in Berlin und Paris

Solo exhibitions (Selection)

- 2021 Innenleben, Neue Galerie Gladbeck
 Tentatives de positionnement, Galerie Jousse
 Entreprise, Paris
- 2020 Untitled (Interior), Pace Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 untitled (2001-2020), Daegu Art Museum, Korea
- 2019 Offene Wände, Museum der bildenden Künste,
 Leipzig
- 2018 Sites and Attitudes, Pace Gallery, Peking, China
 Vie imaginaire, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin
 Tim Eitel: Resident, Kasteel Wijlre, Netherlands
- 2017 Apparition of a Distance, However Near, Hakgojae
 Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Yellow Sky, Goethe Institut Hongkong, Hong Kong,
 China
- 2016 With the past, I have nothing to do, Galerie EIGEN
 + ART Berlin
- 2015 Tomorrow, 2 Seconds later, Jousse Entreprise,
 Paris, France
- 2014 Nebel und Sonne, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin
 Palais Beauharnais, Deutsche Botschaft, Paris,
 Frankreich
- 2013 Elsewhere, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, USA
 Besucher, Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg, Austria
- 2011 Placeholders, Hakgojae Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 2010 Message to home, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin
- 2009 Invisible Forces, PaceWildenstein, New York, USA
- 2008 Die Bewohner, Kunsthalle Tübingen/Kunsthalle
 Kiel/ Kunsthallen Brandts-Odense, Dänemark
 Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin
- 2007 Center of Gravity, PaceWildenstein, New York, USA
- 2006 Currents 96: Tim Eitel, Saint Louis Art Museum,
 Saint Louis, USA
- 2005 Terrain, Galerie der Stadt Backnang
- 2004 Terrain, Museum zu Allerheiligen-Schaffhausen /
 CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, France
- 2003 Landnahme, Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig
- 2002 Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
- 2002 Aussicht, Galerie LIGA, Berlin
- 2000 Frühjahrskollektion, Künstlergilde Ulm

Group exhibitions (Selection)

- 2020 Stand 1D08, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin
- 2019 Un cercle et son centre en quête l'un de l'autre,
 Jousse Entreprise, Paris, France
 West Lake: Breaking Open, Galerie EIGEN + ART
 Berlin
 Les Enfants du Paradis, MUBa Tourcoing,
 France
- 2018 No More Secrets! László Gerő International Art
 Collection, ArtMill, Szentendre, Hungary
 NGORONGORO II, Berlin
 Malevolent Eldritch Shrieking, Paul Morrison's
 Studio, Sheffield, UK
 Zurück zur Natur?, Museum Frieder Burda | Salon
 Berlin
- 2017 Disruptive Imagination – Making Windows
 Where Once There Were Walls, Gallery of Fine
 Arts, Ostrava, Tschechien, Ferenczy Museum
 Center/ Art Mill, Szentendre, Hungary
 „SEHT, da ist der MENSCH“, Kunstmuseum
 Magdeburg
 Louidgi Beltrame // Tim Eitel // Julien Prévieux,
 Jousse Entreprise, Paris, France
- 2016 Die Kerze, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden
 Silence out loud, Museum Kranenburgh, Bergen,
 Netherlands
 Art on paper Masterpieces, Galerie Schimming,
 Hamburg
 Une deuxième image, Maison des arts de Malakoff,
 Paris, France
- 2015 Deutsche Kunst nach 1960, Essl Museum, Wien,
 Austria
 GRAY WOULD BE THE COLOR, IF I HAD A
 HEART., Marc Straus, New York, USA
 German Promises, Ornis A. Gallery, Amsterdam
 40|10, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden
- 2014 „Mensch werde wesentlich“ – gemalt ist der
 Mensch mehr Mensch, KUNSTVEREIN Freunde
 aktueller Kunst, Zwickau

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