

PRESS RELEASE

BERND RIBBECK

21 NOVEMBER – 20 DECEMBER 2012
PRIVATE VIEW TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 6-8PM

‘Twentieth-century church architecture took on shapes that affect me, as ‘bastard’ hybrids of modern rationalism and the spiritual role these buildings were meant to play. My influences can also be much more profane, however: shapes that, although quite concrete, also convey a promise of luck. The soundscape in a casino, for example, when all of the slot machines emit high notes – to me that’s almost like the divine sound of a very terrestrial joy.’
Bernd Ribbeck, interviewed in *Frieze*, March 2012

Alison Jacques Gallery’s second solo exhibition of Bernd Ribbeck is also the first presentation of his work since he was selected for *Made in Germany Zwei: Internationale Kunst in Deutschland*, shown over three venues across Hannover this summer. This new body of paintings on MDF sees acrylic, permanent marker pen and varnish methodically built up and ground down, systematically layered then scratched back, and Ribbeck’s interpretations of the spiritual and the profane grappling within small rectangular arenas of gestural energy and self-restraint.

These unconventional studio techniques are infused by Ribbeck’s abiding fascination with those who deliberately operated at the fringes of art history and social norms. While he has always looked to the Swedish painter and occultist Hilma Af Klimt (1882-1944) to find structure in the spiritual, Ribbeck has recently been drawn to the sense of detachment from the everyday in the works of Swiss Art Brut artist and schizophrenic Aloise Corbaz (1886-1964), who claimed to feel dead in ordinary life but alive in her fantasy drawings. Conversely, the clerical pretensions and failings of the German ‘Organic Architects’ Hans Scharoun (1893-1972) and Dominikus Böhm (1880-1955) and their peculiar designs for modernist-rationalist church interiors are of interest to Ribbeck precisely because their ambition always seemed compromised and punctuated by their piety and traditional impulses. If Ribbeck’s paintings can be experienced as interiors of their own, they are places without narrative containing fictions without religion, or as the artist puts it, “naked icons of my era”.

While he is often rightly cited as an exceptional contemporary geometric harmonist, Ribbeck has never been afraid to unearth the murkiness of personal experience, and his new paintings in particular are enriched by the candour of disharmony. His self-defacing and scarring of the precise linear rationality of his mandala-like forms means Ribbeck’s works always hold true to the substance, tension and effort from which they have been wrought. For all his new paintings’ surprising luminosity and cadence, Bernd Ribbeck has ensured there’s a materiality to his metaphysics.

Born in Cologne in 1974, Bernd Ribbeck studied at the Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf, Akademie der bildenden Künste, Munich and Hochschule de Künste, Berlin, and lives and works in Berlin. In 2012 Ribbeck has been Artist in Residence at 21er Haus, Belvedere, Vienna, and had a solo presentation at Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich. His museum shows include *Made in Germany*, *Internationale Kunst in Deutschland*, Sprengel Museum Hannover, the Kestnergesellschaft Hannover and the Kunstverein Hannover, *Status Berlin*, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, the Galerie für Gegenwartskunst, Bremen, Germany (all 2012); the Kunstverein Kreis Gütersloh, Germany, Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore, Ireland (both 2011); the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2010); *The Long Dark*, International 3, Manchester, the Oldenburger Kunstverein, Germany (both 2009); and Manifesta, Trentino, Italy (2008). Public collections of Ribbeck’s work include MoMA, New York, and K21: Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS OR IMAGES, PLEASE CONTACT FILIPA MENDES
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BERND RIBBECK

Born 1974 in Köln, Germany
Lives in Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

1995 - 2003 MFA, Hochschule der Künste Berlin, Akademie der bildenden Künste München
and Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany
1994 - 1995 Art History, Universität Köln, Germany

SCHOLARSHIPS

2005 DAAD-scholarship for Paris, France
2002 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
6-month Atelierstipendium, Freunde der Kunstakademie Düsseldorf und des
Landes NRW, Germany
2000 Meisterschüler Prof. Helmut Federle / Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012 Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich, Switzerland
2010 Ben Kaufmann, Berlin, Germany (with Alois Corbett)
Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
Norma Mangione Gallery, Turin, Italy
2009 Harris Liebermann, New York, NY
Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
Oldenburger Kunstverein (with Claudia Wieser), Oldenburg, Germany
Peter Kilchmann (Project Space), Zurich, Switzerland
2008 *Here We Stand, Lost in Wonder*, Harris Lieberman, New York, NY (with Simon
Dybbroe Møller)
Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
2007 Art 38 Basel Statements, Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
2006 Hollybush Gardens, London, UK
Galerie Ben Kaufmann, Munich, Germany
2005 Art Forum Berlin, Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
2004 Galerie Ben Kaufmann, Munich, Germany
Stichting Villa de Bank, Enschede, Netherlands
2003 *Bernd Ribbeck – Peintures*, Galerie Pitch, Paris, France
2002 Fanny Geisler und Susanne Rindsberg zeigen, Munich, Germany
2001 *Bernd Ribbeck – Malerei*, Galerie Schneiderei, Köln, Germany

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012 Galeria Casado Santapau, Madrid, Spain (forthcoming)
Made in Germany Zwei, Internationale Kunst in Deutschland, Sprengel
Museum Hannover, the Kestnergesellschaft and the Kunstverein Hannover,
Germany
Status Berlin, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
A Spring Trip to Philadelphia, Galerie für Gegenwartskunst, Bremen, Germany
Abstract Confusion, Neue Galerie Gladbeck, Gladbeck, Germany
2011 *Ars Apocalipsis – Kunst und Kollaps*, Kunstverein Kreis Gütersloh, Germany
Herbei ein Licht, Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore, Ireland, curated by Declan
Clarke & Paul McDevitt
Abstract Confusion, B05, Montabaur, Germany, curated by Christian Malycha
Malerei – konkret.analytisch.radikal.oder so, Overbeck-Gesellschaft, Lübeck,
Germany, May 1 – June 12

- The Secret Life of Abstract Forms*, Gallery Hopstreet, Brussels, Belgium, curated by Barbara Scheuermann,
HotSpot Berlin – Eine Momentaufnahme, Georg-Kolbe-Museum, Berlin, Germany, curated by Eugen Blume / Sebastian C. Strenger
Vollendet das ewige Werk, Sammlung Rheingold, Schloss Dyck, Neuss, Germany, curated by Gregor Jansen
Paint, Pigment and Colour, Avlskarl Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark, cur. Jan Wentrup
- 2010
The Cosmos of Rudolph Steiner/ Rudolph Steiner and Contemporary Art, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Germany
Die Nase des Michelangelo, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich, Switzerland,
The Long Dark, Kettles Yard, Cambridge, UK
Wenn die Nacht am Tiefsten ist, ist der Tag am nächsten, Stern Pissaro Gallery, London, UK, curated by Birte Kleemann & Gabriel Vormstein
Rudolf Steiner und die Kunst der Gegenwart, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany, curated by Ulrike Groos & Markus Brüderlin
The Berlin Box, CCA Andratx, Spain, curated by Frederike Nymphius
Concetto Spaziale, Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
Decolté – Décollage, The Forgotten Bar, Berlin, Germany
- 2009
The Long Dark, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle, UK
Slow Paintings, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany, curated by Fritz Emslander, Markus Heinselmann & Stephanie Kreuzer
Access all areas, Max Hetzler, Berlin, Germany
Cave Painting, PSM Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Remote Memories, Kai 10: Raum für Kunst, Arthema Foundation, Düsseldorf, Germany (cat.)
Time after time, Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
In the Long Dark, International 3, Manchester, UK
- 2008
Dacey/Dobliar/dornfeld/ribbeck, Galeria Casado Santapau, Madrid, Spain
Meisterwerke des 21. Jahrhunderts, Galerie Ben Kaufman, Berlin, Germany
Manifesta 7, Trentino, South Tyrol, Italy
Hase, Krebs und Nachtigall, Mezzanin, Wien, Austria
run run, GI Glasgow International Festival, Collins Gallery, Glasgow, UK, cur. by Sorcha Dallas and Alex Frost
- 2007
Anna Helwing Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Freunde für immer, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany
Neuer Konstruktivismus, Bielefelder Kunstverein, Bielefeld, Germany (cat.)
All hands on deck, Galerie Ben Kaufmann, Munich, Germany
Form Matters - New Formalism, Kirkhoff Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
Our affects fly out of the field of human reality, Galerie Sandra Bürgel, Berlin, Germany
- 2006
Compilation III, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany (cat.)
Abstraktion und Überleben, Kunstbunker, Nürnberg, Germany
TEAM, Arndt & Partner, Berlin, Germany
memory lines and washing lines, Galerie Mark Müller, Zurich, Switzerland
KN'-YAN, Galerie Christine Mayer, Munich, Germany
Zeichen und Wunder, Städtische Galerie Waldkraiburg, Germany (cat.)
La Boom 2, Projektraum Sies+Höke Galerie, Düsseldorf, Germany
Nicht weit vom Stamm, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, Germany
Problems on the way to the modern world, Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Germany
- 2005
Kamm und Campana, Kunstverein, Nürnberg, Germany
Devil's Punchbowl, Chris Grimes Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Liquid Crystal, Lothringerstrasse 13, Munich, Germany
Celebration, Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg, Germany
- 2004
Winde klirren die Fahnen, Galerie Ben Kaufmann, Munich, Germany
Implosion, Raum 500, Munich, Germany
Ideale Forderungen / Center, Berlin, Germany
Schnittraum, Köln (Teil der Ausstellung von Simon D. Möller)
Dessins, Galerie Pitch, Paris, France

- 2003 *Vier Schüler von Helmut Federle*, Galerie Krohn, Basel, Switzerland
Raum 500, Munich, Germany
- 2002 *Les mesures – la pose*, Paris Project Room, Paris, France catalog
Studenten der Kunstakademie, Ck Consult Hölz, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2000 *Besondere Kennzeichen: Malerei*, *Galerie der Künstler*, Munich, Germany
catalog
Genre Painting, G7, Berlin, Germany

ARTICLES

- 2012 *Berliner Künstler in Hannover: Ausstellung Made in Germany Zwei*, Marcus Woeller, www.artberlin.de, Berlin Apr. 9
Ausstellungen/Bernd Ribbeck, *Monopol*, Berlin, Apr., p. 129
Artcollector, Basel, March, No. 8, p. 81
Dear Painter, Christopher Bedford, *Frieze*, London, No. 145, March, pp. 98 – 105
- 2011 *The Nose of Michelangelo*, Quinn Latimer, *Frieze*, London, No. 137, March, p.142
Malerei und schrille Videos, Peter Plagens, *Art Magazin*, Jan., p. 72
Neue Abstraktion in der aktuellen Malerei, Sven Drühl, *Kunstforum*, Jan. – Feb., p.67
- 2010 *Gib's mir*, *Monopol*, Berlin, No. 12, Dec., p. 28
To Hide, Mariuccia Casadio, *Italia Vogue*, Oct., p. 384
Claudiart, Bernd Skupin, *German Vogue*, June, p. 127
Komplexe Bilder? – Slow Paintings, Reinhard Ermen, *Kunstforum*, March – Apr., p.318
- 2009 *Bernd Ribbeck*, *The New Yorker*, New York, Nov. 16
The Long Dark Bernd Ribbeck, Rajesh Punj, *Flash Art*, Milano, No. 268, Oct., p. 101
Wie es leuchtet, Ingeborg Wiensowski, *Kultur Spiegel*, Berlin, No. 6, June, p. 30
Künstlerpaar im Gesamtkunstwerk vereint, Reinhard Rakow NWZ Oldenburg, No. 48, Apr. 9
Handfelszeitung, Switzerland, No 11, March 11, 2009, p 47
Gabrielle Boller, *Visionare rationalitat*, *Zurcher Landeszeitung*, March 11, 2009, p 47
Clementine Kugler, *Die Deutsche Malerei Ist Stark*, *Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, January 9, 2009
- 2008 Best of Germany, *Architectural Digest*, October 2008, p. 76
Oliver Tepel Im schönen Nichts ist alles egal, *Spex*, No 316, September/October 2008, p. 129-131
Elke Buhr Geometrisch, minimalistisch, cool, *art - Das Kunstmagazin*, Nr. 8, August 2008, p. 20-33
Nuit Banai Simon Dybbroe Møller and Bernd Ribbeck, *Here We Stand, Lost in Wonder*, *Time Out New York*, Issue 667, July 10 - 16, 2008
Lumi Tan Simon Dybbroe Møller and Bernd Ribbeck, www.artforum.com/picks/id=20620&view=print, Artforum online, 24.06.2008
Alexander Kennedy The art of science, *The List*, issue 600, 2008
Ludwig Seyfarth Hermetische Abreibungen, www.artnet.de/magazine/reviews/seymfarth/seymfarth02-12-08.asp
- 2007 U. K. Freundschaftsbande, *Schnüss*, 12/2007
Christopher Knight Three views of the modern landscape, *Los Angeles Times*, Nov 30, 2007, pp. E30-31
Gutrun von Schoenebeck Endzeitstimmung aus dem Mittelalter, *General-Anzeiger*, Oct 29, 2007, p. 15
Helga Meister Malerische Entdeckungsreise am Grabbeplatz, *Westdeutsche Zeitung*, May 25, 2007
hms Compilation III, HEINZ, May 2007
Annette Bosetti Junge deutsche Malerei: eine Marke, *Rheinische Post*, April 21, 2007
Helga Meister Im imaginären Museum, *K.West*, May 2007
Compilation III, LOOXX* 01/2007, p. 16-8 -
Magdalena Holzhey *Compilation III, Vernissage* (Rheinland/Hessen) 01/2007, p. 34 - 39
- 2006 Schneeberger, Ruth Bilder auf Abwegen, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 21.04.2006

- Lorch, Catrin Ich bin eine alte Kachel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 15.04.2006, S.49
 Meister, Helga Die ideale Welt des Regenbogens, WZ, 01.04.2006
 Borchardt, Gesine Bernd Ribbeck, *Monopol* 3/2006, S. 55
 2005 Preuss, Sebastian Art Forum-Im Treibhaus der Kunstgeschichte, *Berliner Zeitung*, 29.08.2005
 Keil, Frank Schmerzende Stellen, Frankfurter Rundschau, Nr.176, 01.08.2005, S.10

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 *Vollendet das ewige Werk*, Sammlung Rheingold, ex. cat.
 2010 *Rudolf Steiner und die Kunst der Gegenwart*, Ulrike Groos & Markus Brüderlin, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, DuMont Buchverlag Köln, pp. 190 – 196, ex. cat.
 2009 *Painting Abstraction: New Elements in Abstract Painting*, Bob Nickas, Phaidon Press, London
 Slow Paintings“, Dorothea Zwirner a.o., Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, pp. 124 – 129, ex. cat.
The Long Dark, The International 3 & Hatton Gallery, Newcastler, ex. cat.
Yearbook 2009 – 10, Collin Perry a.o., Frieze, London, ex. cat.
Ich und Du – Claudia Wieser und Bernd Ribbeck, Gertrude Wagenfeld–Pleister, Noemi Smolik, Oldenburger Kunstverein, Oldenburg, Argobooks, ex. cat.
Remote Memories, Zdenek Felix a.o., Kai10 Raum für Kunst, Dusseldorf, pp. 44 – 51, ex. cat.
 2008 Psychonauten – Kunst in Ekstase, Veit Loers, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Köln, pp. 94 – 98
 Manifesta 7. European Biennial for Contemporary Art, Trento, July, p. 92, ex. cat.
 2008 *Patterns 2, Design, Art and Architecture*, Schmidt, Petra; Glasner, Barbara; Schöndeling, Ursula (Ed.), Birkhäuser, Basel 2008, ISBN 978-3764386443
 2007 *Neuer Konstruktivismus*, exh. cat. Bielefelder Kunstverein, Kerber edition young arts, Bielefeld, 2007, ISBN 987-3-86678-083-5
Compilation III, exh. cat. Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, DuMont Literatur und Kunst Verlag, Köln 2007, ISBN 9-783832190-05-7
Abstraktion und Überleben, exh. cat. Kunstbunker - Forum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Nürnberg, Verlag für moderne Kunst, Nürnberg 2007, ISBN 3-939738-26-3
 2006 *Zeichen und Wunder - Hansjörg Dobliar, Bernd Ribbeck, Claudia Wieser*, exh. cat. Städtische Galerie Waldkraiburg, 2006, ISBN 3-935356-10-2
 2000 *Besondere Kennzeichen Malerei*, exh. cat. Galerie der Künste, München 2000

COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
 K21: Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany