

KÖNIG GALERIE

MATTHIAS WEISCHER | MIRRORS AND THINGS

KÖNIG SEOUL | 1. SEPTEMBER – 9. OCTOBER 2022

KÖNIG SEOUL is pleased to present MIRRORS AND THINGS, a solo exhibition by renowned German painter Matthias Weischer. He is one of the most important representatives of the New Leipzig School of figurative painting, which rose to prominence in the decades following the reunification of Germany and emphasizes classical perspective and large-format realist pictures. For his exhibition in Seoul, Weischer has created twelve new oil-on-canvas works.



Each of these paintings depicts an interior space, where straight lines of sight are subject to radical multiplication, often with oblique entry points into the picture's compositional expanse. These scenes are populated with objects including everyday wares and even other familiar works of art that continue the vertiginous play between the flat surface of the painting and optical recession into an illusory depth of field. This tension between real and depicted space is typical of Weischer's work and represents one of the most significant contributions to the wider arena of painting in Germany.

In many of the works for Seoul, Weischer doubles the rectangular support of his canvases with the addition of other flat planes – carpets, room dividers, supplemental drawings – that allegorize his trademark displacement of real and constructed space. The effect is enhanced by the orientation that is provided to viewers within these perspectival spaces, where interior scenes are largely directed toward a corner and not to a straightforward entry into the painting's setting. The results of this highly original visual drama are compelling in and of themselves, but they also reveal something more fundamental in Weischer's practice: the laying bare of painterly technique, hiding nothing about the genesis of the picture's construction.

In one work, a small painting hangs on a wall of the same colour, with a mask resting against said wall. Abstract ornamental elements decorate the right side of the composition, and when viewed alongside the other paintings in the show – in which floral elements puncture the visual boundaries of a space – it becomes entirely unclear whether these motifs emerge from beyond the painting or are flat renderings on the surface of the painting that return the gaze back to the canvas itself. This liminality is a frequent result of Weischer's work, in which eyes move into and out of the picture's compositional constraints. Elements perform double duty as both surface decoration and perspectival constructions, emblemized in the towels and textiles that hang on makeshift structures in many of the paintings, their limp forms thematizing flatness while also defining the depicted rooms.

Weischer's paintings traditionally have rough surfaces, as if worn by the ceaseless march of historical time, complementing the objects that appear to return to the era of the former GDR. The lack of the usual sheen of oil paint adds yet another layer to the overall impression of these paintings, where no section of the work is treated with any greater significance than another.

This creates a radical democratization of painting's customary hierarchy of forms and helps to shatter the pictorial illusion that there is anything beyond the material surface of the canvas, despite appearances to the contrary. With the inclusion of flowers, mirrors, smaller paintings, lights, and other sundry objects, Weischer gestures directly to the regions that extend beyond the canvas, and in so doing, emphasizes the artificiality of any given representation – the pictures never present a totality, a world completed, observed as a mere image.

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EXHIBITIONS

TUE GREENFORT
Equilibrium
KÖNIG GALERIE
19.08. – 02.10.2022

NORBERT BISKY
Taumel
KÖNIG GALERIE
14.09. – 16.10.2022

ALLISON ZUCKERMAN
KÖNIG SEOUL
21.10. – 27.11.2022

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Tue – Sun 11 AM – 7 PM

Matthias Weischer (b.1973 in Elte, DE) lives and works in Leipzig. He studied at the Leipzig Academy, where he received his Bachelor's degree in 2000 and his Master's degree in 2003. Among his many accolades, in 2004, Weischer was chosen as Laureate of the Rolex Mentor & Protégé Arts Initiative with renowned British artist, David Hockney.

He has been the subject of numerous international solo exhibitions at the Drents Museum, Assen, NL (2020); the Museum Kloster Bentlage, Rheine, DE (2019); Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig, DE (2016); the Akademie Franz-Hitze-Haus, Münster, DE (2015); the Kunstmuseum, The Hague, NL (2014 & 2008); Museo de Arte de Ponce, Puerto Rico (2011); Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Málaga, ES (2010); Ludwig Forum Internationale Kunst, Aachen, DE (2006), among many others.

Group exhibitions including Weischer's work have been on view at Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR; Stavanger Art Museum, Stavanger, NO; Cobra Museum, Amstelveen, NL; Camden Arts Centre, London, UK; and GEM Museum of contemporary art, The Hague, NL, amongst others.

His work can be found in institutional and private collections, including The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum, The Hague; Drents Museum, Assen; The Franks-Suss Collection, London; The Hort Family Collection, New York, NY; The Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, NL; Museum of Modern Art, Arken, DK; G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig; Pinault Collection, Paris; Telegraph Foundation, Olomouc, CZ; Zabłudowicz Collection, London; and Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK), Frankfurt am Main, among many others.

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