

Carsten Nicolai + Albert Oehlen

Grau

September 15 - October 29, 2022

During Berlin Art Week 2022, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin opens the exhibition *Grau* - a collaboration between Carsten Nicolai and the painter and installation artist Albert Oehlen. Following on from the joint sound and light installation with the same title, which was presented in Switzerland last year, new canvas works by Carsten Nicolai and paper works by Albert Oehlen have been created for the exhibition at Galerie EIGEN + ART.

While Nicolai worked on ten minimal colour surfaces in which the entire canvas absorbs the grey, Oehlen focused on ten watercolours in which the grey colour sometimes appears like an abstract sign, sometimes like a concrete portrait and assumes different degrees of intensity. Placed next to each other, these series of pictures merge to a diptych that opens up a third examination of the colour grey in addition to the individual preoccupation with it. This is further enhanced by the invitation to place Oehlen's almost transparent portraits in the imaginary on Nicolai's powerful canvases, whereby the colour surfaces seem to move into one another and thus epitomise a constant changeability. Analogous to this individual bringing together, however, the entire exhibition is to be understood as only one part of a process that was already preceded by a period of joint work by the two artists, and which is not yet concluded with this show.

Carsten Nicolai (born 1965 in Karl-Marx-Stadt) is a German artist and musician living in Berlin. Nicolai uses electronic sounds and visual art as a kind of hybrid toy to create his own microscopic view of the creative process. As a musician, Nicolai publishes under the artist name Alva Noto. Notable collaborations have already taken place with Ryuichi Sakamoto, Ryoji Ikeda (cyclo.), Blixa Bargeld and Mika Vainio. As part of the 58th Biennale di Venezia, Carsten Nicolai presented an interactive sound performance in the Mongolian pavilion.

His work was shown in several solo- and group exhibitions, including Documenta X (1997), the Venice Biennale (2001/2003), Schirn Kunsthalle (2004), the Yamaguchi Center for Visual Arts and Media in Japan, at MoMa New York (2013), Milan's Fondazione Prada (2014), Hamburg's Deichtorhallen (2008), K21 Düsseldorf (2019) or Haus der Kunst, Munich (2022).

Albert Oehlen (born 1954 in Krefeld) is a German painter and installation artist and is considered one of the most important representatives of experimental painting. Oehlen lives and works in Switzerland. He has a high affinity for experimental music and presents, besides his painterly work, also spatial musical installations and sound works.

His works were presented in various international exhibitions, amongst others Gagosian, Athens (2022), Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles (2021), Sprengel Museum Hannover (2020), Serpentine Galleries in London (2019), Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (2019) or the Pinault Collection in Venice (2018).

Galerie EIGEN + ART
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