

Galerie Neu

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Birgit Megerle, *Bond*, 10.03.2023 – 15.04.2023

Galerie Neu is pleased to present *Bond*, Birgit Megerle's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery.

Focusing on portraits, Birgit Megerle's new exhibition brings into question sense of community and togetherness by staging paintings populated with multiple and heterogeneous figures: a mother and her child, an adolescent, brothers, protesters or a woman wearing a hat.

While the works *Track*, *Caprice*, *Midi* and *Interrelation* (all 2023) are characteristic of the artist's early works based on staged photographs of family, friends and brief encounters, the other two paintings in the exhibition go beyond the artist's surrounding and personal archive, they give way to public figures and realm. The tenderness that emanates from *Care IV* (2023), depicting a scene from the black and white 1960 Luchino Visconti's movie *Rocco and His Brothers*, contrast with the determination of the protesters in *Signs* (2023) which draws on images of last year protests following the US Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v Wade* - the landmark ruling that had guaranteed abortion access nationwide for nearly 50 years.

Precise, detailed, and delicately executed, the portraits are both artificial and distanced. The abstracted backdrops of the paintings appear to detach the figures from their environment, from any particular time.

The predominant green and brown palette of the paintings, with sometimes grisaille tones referring again to the artist's early works, interact with three extra walls specifically conceived for the exhibition, all painted in a different muted color. The temporary monochrome walls seem to both bind and obstruct relations among the staged characters. The works are rarely visible together at the same time.

Birgit Megerle (b. 1975 in Geisingen, DE) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo or duo exhibition include *Enfanterie* at Galerie Kirchgasse, Steckborn (with Robert Müller) (2020), *The Year Off* at Galerie Emanuel Layr, Vienna (2019), *Soft Power* at Galerie Neu, Berlin (2018) and *The Painted Veil* at Kunsthhaus Glarus, Glarus, CH (2017).

For further information please contact the gallery: mail@galerieneu.com or +49 30 285 75 50.