

GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER

IMI KNOEBEL

etcetera

29 MAY – 26 JUL 2024

Opening: Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 7 p.m.
Introduction at 7.30 p.m. by Heinrich Dunst

The title of Imi Knoebel's eighth solo exhibition *etcetera*, refers to a current series of works by the same name that will be presented at the gallery for the first time and is the focus of the presentation.

In this series, Knoebel, who is known for his minimalist and conceptual working method, trades purely monochrome surfaces for an abstract language of forms that could also be found in his earlier works. Hatched brushwork, occasionally applied in thick layers of paint, create a pictorial background that is defined by a single color, like deep red or delicate yellow and pink. Knoebel lets the metal picture support shine through where the layers of paint have left empty spaces on the unprimed and sanded aluminum. A pattern of gestural signs and hints of geometric shapes is superimposed on the background. Painted in an expressive style, the picture's surface is structured by vertical and horizontal lines, circles, and fragments reminiscent of letters and numbers. Knoebel juxtaposes the classic pictorial format of the rectangle with irregularities that run counter to our habits of seeing and the rigor of geometry.

Another series called *Archetypen*, in room 3 of the gallery, takes an entirely different approach. Here, in a divergence from conventional schemes, canvases shaped like organic forms dominate the room. The "Venus of Hohle Fels", a six-centimeter-tall figurine made of mammoth ivory that is more than 30,000 years old and was found in excavations in Germany, lends them her shape. Based on a photograph of this first known depiction of a female figure, Knoebel made an abstracted version of the shape and changed the view to a landscape format. Varying the amorphous forms, he painted the surfaces in monochrome earthy and pastel hues. Underlying layers of paint delicately peek through the surface, lending the works a subtle corporeality in combination with the application of paint that is impasto in parts. This results in animated contours that are similar to artifacts whose origins can be traced back to the already modified representation of femininity, which undergoes another shift and a new reading through Knoebel's interpretation.

IMI KNOEBEL, born in 1940 in Dessau, lives and works in Düsseldorf.

In 2006, Imi Knoebel was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Jena. He received the Kythera Award in 2011, the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2016.

Selection of solo shows and projects: Sammlung Goetz, Munich, DE (2022); Dia:Beacon, New York, NY (2021); FARB – Forum Altes Rathaus Borken, Borken, DE (2020); Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, LI (2020); Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, CH (2018); Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden, Wuppertal, DE (2017); Musée National Fernand Léger, Biot, FR (2016); Kunstsammlung NRW K21 Ständehaus, Düsseldorf, DE (2015); Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld, DE (2015); Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, DE (2014); Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, DE (2013); Stained glass windows for the Notre-Dame in Reims, FR (2011); Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, NL (2010); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, DE (2009), Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, DE (2009); Dia:Beacon, New York, NY (2008); Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, DE (2007); Retrospective 1968–1996: Haus der Kunst, Munich, DE; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL; IVAM Centre del Carme, Valencia, ES; Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, DE; Musée de Grenoble, FR (1996–1997).

Imi Knoebel participated in documenta in Kassel in 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1987.

His works can be found in many renowned museum collections all over the world, including the Bayrische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, DE; Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, NL; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR; Dia:Beacon, New York, NY; FNAC, Paris, FR; Fundação de Serralves, Porto, PT; Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, NL; Kunstmuseum Basel, CH; MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY; Reina Sofia, Madrid, ES; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; and Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, JP.