

**GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN
ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER**

ERNST CARMELLE

das gleiche, aber anders

21 MAY – 27 JUN 2026

Opening: Thursday, May 21, 2026, 7 p.m.

Introduction: Dieter Schwarz, 7:30 p.m.

“All of a sudden, one thing is several things at once”: This poignant observation about Ernst Caramelle’s work was made by the art theorist Denys Zacharopoulos. Perhaps also one picture is several pictures, one title several titles, and one concept several concepts all at once? Where are the boundaries between reality and illusion, between original and copy? The handling of deception and what seems real – exploring what is “visible” – is a through line in Caramelle’s entire work and is based on the idea that “art is a fake,” which is also the title of one of his works from 1977.

But when is art a fake? The viewpoints in Caramelle’s works are never clear; sometimes they are ambivalent, or often ambiguous regarding the perspectives in his pictorial spaces and in terms of cultural-historical spaces and their narratives – where temporal levels are inserted and works are complemented by language in the form of short comments, which are not explanations, but ironic remarks that undermine the themes of the works as such. Freedom of language and an automatism in the process of creation appear to be self-evident characteristics for the artist. They can be used as a guide to looking at the works and recognizing the references in the pictures, or we can also add our own.

“Showing the same thing in a way that it is always different” is something that Caramelle said in 1979. It means that everything is already present but can always be seen and interpreted in a new fashion. In his current exhibition “das gleiche, aber anders” (the same, but different), which is also his tenth solo show in the gallery, the artist follows the same principles. Here, Caramelle opens up several levels of new spaces that not only extend beyond conventions, but also challenge our expectations in sophisticated ways. He thus establishes a connection to a poetic idea iterated by Oswald Oberhuber, who was his teacher at the art academy: “Art is the internal entrance to the unknown.”

ERNST CARMELLE was born in Hall in Tyrol in 1952. He lives and works in Frankfurt and New York City. Caramelle participated in the Biennale Sydney in 1990 and documenta IX in Kassel in 1992. He was a professor and rector (from 2012 to 2018) at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe.

Selected solo exhibitions: 2025 Austrian Cultural Forum New York, New York City; 2022 Klocker Museum, Hall in Tirol; 2018 mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna; Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe; Marta Herford, Herford; 2017 Galerie der Stadt Schwaz, Schwaz; 2016 Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht; 2012 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; 2010 Bloomberg Space, London; 2008 Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck; 2006 Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; 2005 Museu Serralves, Porto; 2001 BAWAG Foundation, Vienna; 1998 Städtische Galerie, Nordhorn; 1993 Secession, Vienna; 1993 Portikus, Frankfurt; 1990 Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld; 1990 Nationalgalerie, Berlin; 1989 Musée départemental de Rochechouart, Rochechouart; 1986 Kunsthalle Bern, Bern; and 1982 Kunsthalle Basel, Basel.

Selected museum collections: Albertina, Vienna; Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht; FRAC Limousin, Limoges; Generali Foundation, Salzburg; Krefelder Kunstmuseum, Krefeld; Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz; Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz; Art Collection of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna; mumok Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna; Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck; Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Whitney Museum, New York.

DIETER SCHWARZ (*1953 Zurich) is a freelance curator and author. From 1990 to 2017 he was director of the Kunstmuseum Winterthur in Switzerland.