

BEN WILLIKENS

Opening: 19 JANUARY 2017, from 7 pm

Until: March 11, 2017

Galerie Hans Mayer is pleased to present a compilation of works by the renowned German artist BEN WILLIKENS (* 1939 in Leipzig). The gallery celebrates its long-standing collaboration with the artist on January 19, 2017, with thirteen large-format works created between 2011 and 2017. He is known for his strictly composed, gray space concepts and is one of the leading figures in the German art scene. The exhibits are from different series of work and deal in different ways with the architecture of interior and exterior spaces, which includes the artist's studio amongst others. In contrast to earlier work, Willikens uses strong colors in some of the pictures displayed here. The juxtaposition leads to an exciting dialogue and leaves his work open to new interpretations.

Ben Willikens was born in 1939 in Leipzig. He lives and works in Stuttgart and Wallhausen. He studied painting at the Staatlichen Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart and the Slade School of Fine Art in London. From 1982-1991 he taught painting and graphic design at the Braunschweig Academy of Fine Arts. In 1991 he went to the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, where he held the office of Rector from 1999 until his retirement in 2004. He was awarded the Villa Romana Prize, Florence; The Villa Massimo Prize, Rome; The Hans-Molfenter-Prize, Stuttgart, and the Kunstpreis der Helmut-Kraft-Stiftung, Stuttgart. Since 1985 he has also designed stage sets for large European theaters and opera houses. Willikens' works have been shown in nationally and internationally renowned institutions, including the Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig; Des Forums Würth, Chur, Switzerland; Haus der Kunst, Munich; The Palazzo Pitti, Florence; The Kunstmuseum Stuttgart; and currently the Kunsthalle Weishaupt, Ulm. His works are represented in numerous collections, In the National Art Collection; the Daimler Art Collection; the German Architecture Museum, Frankfurt am Main; the Josef-Albers Museum, Bottrop; the Kunstmuseum Bonn; the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart; the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; the Musée d'art Moderne et Contemporain de Strasbourg; the Museum Folkwang, Essen; the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; the Reinhold Würth Collection, Künzelsau; the Schaufler Collection, Schauwerk Sindelfingen; the Siegfried Collection; and the Jutta Weishaupt Collection, Ulm.