

GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER

KATHARINA GROSSE

May 10 – June 17, 2017

We are pleased to present new works by Katharina Grosse in what will be her fifth exhibition at Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder.

Katharina Grosse's oeuvre has continued to occupy one of the most important positions in international painting since the early 1990s. Constant innovation and variable perspectives run through her ideas and work, in which she systematically questions and expands the notion of painting in a remarkable way. Grosse says recently in an interview with Louise Neri, "painting allows me the most direct transmission of thinking into action, my paintings are the direct physical residue of my thinking." She first began using various paint brushes before she began primarily working with a spray paint gun in 1998 to heighten our awareness of painting as a relational, spatial, fundamentally performative phenomenon under conditions of radical subjectivity.

It is first and foremost the active conquest of space and architecture through painting that has given the artist's work flexibility and distinctiveness on equal counts. It is no longer about expanding painting through its transgression from the canvas format, but rather pictures "pop up" everywhere. In the mentioned interview Katharina Grosse states: "The painted image is a contribution of reality that is introduced into an existing network of other images. (...) Color is not topical; it is not linked to space. It is totally independent of site, surface, or even object. These are key points in my work: how I manage to develop painting as intricate patterns of emotional information, and that painting can appear anywhere," as seen in large-scale prominently in the International Pavilion at the 2015 Venice Biennale, or recently as the site specific intervention for the *Rockaway!* series of the MoMA PS1 in 2016 at Fort Tilden, New York.

Whether site specific or in the studio, the starting point of Grosse's work is without reference. "I am fascinated by the image in which no identity whatsoever is being offered. I am interested in an imminent state, where just enough is generated to understand that a pattern or informative structure is about to build. That's the starting point and then there are many things I want to know about this status, which has to do with the experience of prelinguistic thinking," the artist says in the same interview. On the surface, or in the room, the painting is open and receptive to countless occurrences that happen during the painting process. With deliberate concentration, using unmixed acrylics, Grosse time and again brings to the canvas new structures and procedures that spring forth from the act of painting, and are potentially given clarity and perspective dimension by use of stencils. The outcome is a beguiling, overpowering painting practice that offers countless possibilities for reception.

KATHARINA GROSSE born in 1961 in Freiburg, Breisgau, Germany, lives and works in Berlin. She was awarded in 2003 the Fred-Thieler-Prize, in 2014 the Oskar-Schlemmer-Prize – the Grand State Prize of Baden-Württemberg and in 2015 the Otto-Ritschl-Kunstpreis.

Katharina Grosse has had solo exhibitions at the MoMA PS1, Long Island, New York; Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, Germany; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas; Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf; MASS MoCA, Massachusetts; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, and other venues. She participated in the biennials of Sydney, Taipei, and New Orleans as well as the Venice Biennale in 2015.

Her works can be found in such museum collections as the Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany; Museu Serralves, Porto, Portugal; Sprengel Museum Hannover, Germany; Arken Museum für moderne Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark; De Pont Museums, Tilburg, Netherlands; FNAC collection, France; Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland, Australia; and Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden.