

PRESSRELEASE

**JOHANNES SCHWARTZ
BLUE, TURNING GREY OVER YOU**

**SARAH VERBEEK
BODILY FLUIDS**

9 September – 21 October 2017

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents *Blue, Turning Grey over You*, the third solo-show by Johannes Schwartz (1970, München) with the gallery and first solo exhibition by painter Sarah Verbeek (Amsterdam, 1974) at The Bakery, our project space.

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Dutch avant-garde movement De Stijl. For his new works, Schwartz was inspired by original photo albums of De Stijls most prominent member, Piet Mondriaan, that he found at the RKD (Dutch Institute for Art History). These photo albums were designed by Mondriaan in order to show his works to a broader audience. They encompass black and white reproductions (the only available medium at that time) of his paintings, each accompanied by the list of colors in which they were painted.

Schwartz found the fact that the viewer had to re-imagine the colors fascinating, given the importance of the composition for Mondriaan. Taking a closer look, one will discover that in the series Horizon, Schwartz digitally manipulated Mondriaan's paintings by drawing a line in the middle of each of them, creating a horizon. The work undermines Mondriaan's strive for the ultimate image and questions the functionality of the photographic reproduction. With his works Schwartz researches, in line with Mondriaan, the possibilities of reproduction with new modern day techniques. Music, jazz in particular, played an important part in Mondriaan's life and artistic practice. It appears that the painter repeatedly turned toward new music, giving away old records once he was done with them. Schwartz photographed the collection of discarded records and arranged them in collages, creating a kaleidoscope of inspirations that can no longer be traced. With his new show Schwartz manages to express that what is absent can speak as much to your imagination as what is in front of you. The creative process is completed and personalized in the viewers' mind. The Mondriaan we see might be something quite different than what the painter saw himself.

In Sarah Verbeek's work three dimensional and two dimensional forms overlap. Dimensions dissolve, shapes half blocking out what seems to be laid in the painting's background. Trained as a classic figurative painter Verbeek's move towards abstraction was, as she says herself, a necessary development. As a matter of fact, Verbeek's surfaces work on several layers, flowing from background to foreground and back again. As such they are subversively avoiding to state what is more or less important. By doing so Verbeek creates bouncing, energetic structures of form and color. Like all abstract painters she creates what does not exist yet, forever avoiding to be put into words while at the same time making complete sense.

Johannes Schwartz (Munich, 1970) is living and working in Amsterdam. He studied photography at Gerrit Rietveld Academy between 1995 and 1998. At the Rietveld Academy, he has been head of the photography department (2004-2010), where he is still teaching. He participated in 'Opera Aperta / Loose Work', the Dutch entry to the Venice Biennale 2011 and his work has been collected by the Stedelijk Museum and Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam among others.

During the autumn of 2017, Sarah Verbeek will be artist in residence at the Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory at Lake Kawaguchi with the support of the Mondriaan Fonds. The residency is designed for international artists who wish to learn the techniques of the famous Japanese mokuhanga printmaking.