

stedefreund

Let the train blow the whistle

Katja Pudor // Anne Vorbeck //

Guests: Jana Debrodt // Anja Garg // Inken Hilgenfeld // Bernd Mechler // Markus Willeke

Opening: Friday, 4 July 2008, 7-10 p.m.
through 9 August 2008 (Wed.-Sat. 2-7 p.m.)

Stedefreund salutes rhythm in painting, which can't do without it and is transformed by it into a border-crossing accomplice of music and dance. Along with Katja Pudor and Anne Vorbeck, five other artists have been invited to move through time and space with painting, sound and installation, and to celebrate the exhibition as an opulent festival of sensory (mis)perception.

Katja Pudor transforms Stedefreund's minimalistic concrete-slab architecture into a magnificent hall of mirrors, reviving the dazzle and decadence of baroque residences such as Versailles, Schönbrunn and Herrenchiemsee. The space conveys sensuality while simultaneously causing the veneration of pomp and wealth to go up in smoke and mirrors. The stylistic devices of replication and illusory depth transpose the striving for infinity and representation to the present. This temporary *gesamtkunstwerk* is augmented by a colonette-installation by sculptor **Inken Hilgenfeld**, and by an audio installation by **Jana Debrodt** that stretches out the data density of a high baroque overture, dilating and minimizing its opulence. In a reference to the baroque culture of festivity and improvisation, the artists celebrate the gallery space as a palace of culture long before the resurrection of the nearby city palace.

Anne Vorbeck's conception of the world possesses color, shape, space and – large scale. For her, painting is above all an opportunity to create strong visual rhythms. Color flows, leaving behind traces that are brushed, printed, lines of marker or ink, drawn, sprayed, spattered. Organic forms rotate away across the corners of walls, taking on independent existence as a dynamic spatial painting that emerges from the canvas and vanishes into it again. A holistic visual experience that takes in the exhibition space and everyone in it. Each image is like a song: clearly composed, rhythmic, available to the senses and seductive. Very loose, very powerful – wild! – but also cool and calculated.

As the starting point for each of his painterly actions, **Bernd Mechler** prefers the aimless movement of the flaneur, who allows his gaze to wander as he strolls. His radiant blurs and loops of color shift between representation and abstraction, juggling the materiality of the image and the illusion of space in an endless loop. His investigations of oil on canvas are complemented by **Anja Garg's** installation of colored fiberboard sheets that create an abstract rhythm while also calling to mind scuff marks on doormats, thus evoking everyday life.

Dare you, dare you, double dare you ... doors, fences, barricades, warning signs, tattoos, final credits – extra large in acrylic on canvas. In a complex process of translation, **Markus Willeke** transplants into his painting motifs taken primarily from the genres of heavy metal and the horror film, all of which play key roles in scenarios of crime and violence because of the way they separate the zones of danger and safety, outside and inside. For Stedefreund, Willeke has created a wall painting, consummating the dance between animated and spellbound images in his own unique way.

Carla Orthen

Katja Pudor b.1965 www.katjapudor.de / www.stedefreund-berlin.de

Anne Vorbeck b.1975 www.stedefreund-berlin.de

Jana Debrodt b. 1975 www.jana-debrodt.de

Anja Garg b.1972 1994-2005 Stud. Universität Duisburg-Essen

Inken Hilgenfeld b.1974 1997-2004 studied fine art KHB Weißensee

Bernd Mechler b.1958 www.galerie-appel.de / www.ruthleuchter.de

Markus Willeke b 1971 www.markuswilleke.de / www.rasche-ripken.de