

BERND HOFFMANN

Contenance

05. November 2016 – 14. Januar 2017

„Contenance“ means trying to maintain the form, to retain one's composure; in the face of a change which unhinges anything which until now was considered as sure and natural. The consequence is consternation and instability, in the face of the fact that our imagination world is breaking into pieces. In his drawings, sculptures and paintings the artist Bernd Hoffmann moves between keeping and deconstructing forms.

Based on the perception that many structures which until now were considered as self-evident and traditional tend to fall, in his solo exhibition „Contenance“ Bernd Hoffman presents the sculpture „Belle Époque“, which consists of concrete, cast iron, glazed ceramic and a shark's spine. This sculpture alludes to a social system perceived as concave and corroded. The social system is now just identifiable in bits and pieces. On the canvas „Keine Lust mehr, Bäume zu essen- No longer desire for eating trees“ Bernd Hoffmann painted over a petty bourgeois-scene by putting a figure in the foreground who seeks to settle out from the rest of the painting, though not considering the fact that there is a second figure on the motive who tries to disturb the first figure's intention. The postcard-serial „Austria Schwarz- Austria black“ and the ceramic sculpture „Dom- Dome“ tie in with this and seem to be like vaporized paintings. Each single work in the exhibition is taken out of context and communicates the impression that it only consists of itself. The particular form of each work is pure end in itself. At last it is nothing but a conglomerate of materials and patterns of memory.

The drawings represent pieces of human bodies which do not fit anymore to each other. The expectations how a body, a human being should look like are no longer guaranteed and fulfilled. At last the exhibition „Contenance“ deals with alienation from a memory-corpus of existence and with the relativity of constructs. The ceramic painting „Contenance III“ shows a head with a golden helmet. A subject that humorously serves as an allegorical mirror of a lost Self. A Self which remains immobile, in view of an eruptive occurrence, wondering about what just has happened.

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