

Wouter van Riessen

The awakening

January 27 - March 25 2017

In his solo exhibition „The awakening“ the Dutch painter Wouter van Riessen deals with the experience of coming to life. This occurs both in his partly large- sized canvases and in the minds of its spectators. One of Wouter van Riessen`s main sources of inspiration is the unanimated world, the puppet world. The Pinocchio- figure takes a leading role. But also Vincent van Gogh`s sunflower still lives are important to the artist, who was born in 1967 in Bloemendaal, The Netherlands. Both Wouter van Riessen`s still lives and his intense figure portraits urge the spectator to look closely. Suddenly one encounters new forms, which release all sorts of associations that surmount the obvious and the purely visible. Wouter van Riessen says that by looking intensely at the flower elements in his paintings he sees facial expressions popping up. A precisely balanced colour scheme achieves that the works are deconstructed and rearranged merely by the spectator`s gaze. This way, the visitor of the exhibition is enabled to discover new forms continuously. Wouter van Riessen`s art works are in line with the principle of “reading, respectively looking between the lines“. Forms are balanced, interrelated and confronted with one another.

A flower is a flower and is not a flower, because it is so much more than it appears to be. Van Riessen`s paintings are the result of a creative, pictorial act, but they are still very much in need of a viewer`s creative eye.

Why does the painting „Houdini“ show a Pinocchio figure, but not the face of its puppeteer? The all moving and life giving puppet master holds Pinocchio`s destiny in his hands. But his inability to see his puppet and make eye contact to it makes the power balance shift. The puppet comes to the fore. And with the spectator`s help Pinocchio is able to free himself. He steps out of the inanimate world of colours and paint and becomes alive.

Claudia Cosmo

GALERIE ROMPONE

Claudia Cosmo
Brüsseler Straße 31

D- 50674 Köln | +49 171 1205579

info@romponeartspace.com

www.romponeartspace.com

Fr 14 - 19 h Sat 13 - 17 h and by appointment