

Galerie Rompone

Frédéric Buell

The signs of the times

09. November 2024 - 18. Januar 2025

When you look at your oeuvre do you have subjects and themes that are constantly to be found in your work?

In my work I always refer to the subject of having a stance, a posture. A posture our society is asking us to have in all contexts, in our family, in our work or in a couple`s relationship. A posture that not always is perfectly matching with our deep self. The posture we have to have makes us seem to be zombies and then we find ourselves in the shadow of our authentic self.

Why do you have a great love for paper as a material to paint on and why do you choose to paint with pencils ? I am not interested in paintings in which a simple aesthetic effect is reproduced or in which you bluff by reproducing something with extravagant skills. Paper, some pencils, the ones you can find in a child`s satchel and I am happy. I really do not like bluffing. The reduction to simple mediums prevents the cheating. Virtuosity alone does not mean that you are an artist. It is not about to make something nice but something sensitive. I am not afraid of showing hypersensitivity.

What do you associate with the title of your exhibition “The signs of the times“?

The paradox of repetition. The strictly recurring representation of a form over a long period of time does not alter its powerful energy. It imposes a creative ritual that gradually liberates the gesture from its strict constraints, it allows us to mark a more instinctive, innovative field of innovation. It is possible to condense in successive stages a new and more essential energy ?

In the gallery you show your Bang- Bang- series. Tell us about the Farwest and what it means to you as an artist !

I refer to this subject because of two reasons: It takes me back to my childhood. It is a disguise where you can hide your personal suffering. And it is also an image of the US- american hypocrisy. A cow boy who originally was a pariah in the society (30 % of the cow boys were black), who was used to the maximum for exercising an ungrateful job just to find himself pushed into the spotlights like an icon of the american dream.

Can you tell us something about the series “Portrait de famille“?

It is a series that can be seen in therapeutic terms. It is rooted in the contemplation of a rather obscure family history and is in-tended as an artistic proposal that evokes the arcana of the family. The series at-tempts to explore the alchemy of sometimes confused parental relationships.

On your motives we often see figures doing something. But it seems as if their action is frozen at a sudden when we look at them as if they were caught by doing some secret stuff. Please comment a bit on this impression !

Well observed ! This also is because of the posture- subject I work with. The form is clasped on a neutral background frozen into a cartoonesque attitude on the limits to the ridiculous. One could apply the same treatment to doctors or lawyers (laughs).

Would you say that on your paintings we can feel a certain social vacuum? That talks about isolation or the awareness that we are always alone although we might hang out in groups ?

Thanks for asking the question which is the answer at the same time. I have nothing to add.

Frédéric Buell, *1963 Paris, lebt und arbeitet in seiner Heimatstadt/
lives and works in his hometown

***ausgewählte Ausstellungen/ selected exhibitions 2000-2024**

Galerie Rompone, Köln, solo

MAPP, Milan

Ex Pescheria, Cesena

Galerie d'art contemporain Palazzo Ducale di Pavullo nel Frignano Modena, solo

Musée du Risorgimento, Ferrara, solo

Maison Française, Bologna, solo

Galleria L'Ariete, Bologna, solo

Galleria Allegretti Contemporanea, Torino, solo

Galleria Café Europe, Roma

Musée d'art contemporain Ca' la Ghironda, Ponte Ronca Bologna, solo

Galerie Rössler, München, solo

Galerie Rompone, Cologne

Espace Kiron, Paris, solo

White Box-The Annex Gallery, New York City

***besondere Projekte/ special projects**

Portraits 'intérieur, Ultradesign Spazio Cassina, Bologna

Il Corpo in posa, for the Comité pour 'organisation des XX^e Jeux Olympiques
d'hiver Turin 2006

Ausstellung/ exhibition at the BMW show-room, Milan during Miart fair

Ausstellung/ exhibition at the Poltrona Frau show-room, Forlì