

EARTHLY SPHERES

Gregor Gleiwitz and Georg Baselitz,
Tony Cragg, Günther Förg, Gerhard Richter

22 October - 22 November 2014

When we speak about spheres, they most often are celestial. The firmament and its literary descriptions beguile us since a fairly long time. In the writings of the ancient world, the spherical shell surrounding the Earth explains the course of the stars. According to Pythagoras the movements of the stars create celestial music. When we follow the harmonics back to the Earth, we immerse into the dense realm of the relations between consonance and dissonance. Their interrelations ensure lively tensions, also in art works.

So we find them in the eruptive movements of the sculptures by **Tony Cragg** (*1949). We experience them also in the brown Inpaintings by **Gerhard Richter** (*1932), in which subtle nuances of colour and sophisticated luminosity impressively form spatial depth.

We encounter something similar in the paintings by **Gregor Gleiwitz** (*1977). They first appear abstract. However, the course of the movements and the use of colour create strong dynamics. Time and again, they seem to open new realms as if the earth, permanently seething, shapes them. Just as if Gleiwitz only retains a short moment, the titles of the paintings refer to the day the works were created.

The alleged abstract paintings are also conceived as portraits. As a viewer one may imagine the different worlds behind the effigies.

The exhibition presents another large-scale portrait, whose figure only slowly emerges. With an unusually fine alignment on a dark background **Georg Baselitz** (*1938) at first creates an impression of a very reduced abstract drawing. The side-face of the head shows after a while. The piece is remarkable also because of its technique. It represents one of Baselitz' rare linocuts that cleared the way for his artistic development. Splitting and carving, the powerful handling of the surface already shows the qualities, which later manifest in his ground-breaking sculptures in wood.

Also **Günther Förg** (1952-2013) worked with unusual materials. His lead paintings are legendary. The earthly lead, charged with the symbolic meaning of threat and protection, forms the basis for minimal abstraction.

We are immensely happy to be able to bring together works by these excellent artists in an exhibition for the first time.