

NADJA NAFE
FOR THE MOMENT

May 18 - June 16, 2018

Nadja Nafe is an artist in constant search of the possibilities and limitations of painting, always departing from the line and the painted surface. The processual nature of her works and the traceable conditions of image formation can be experienced in a tense relationship between composition and dissolution, construction and deconstruction.

Nafe's works invite the observer to look through painterly superimpositions, through delicate glazes, veils and layers of colour. If you are willing to look behind the superficially visible and engage with these pictorial depths, then you will see living gaps, cuts, factual and fictitious glances open up. Contrasting colour combinations, dynamic movements and organic forms serve as abstract references to objects, living beings or nature itself. This layering and uncovering „creates two opposing perceptions: at the same time, colours and forms are both emphasized and subdued. How these function is ultimately not only context-dependant in the picture, but also influenced by social and cultural aspects, as well as by personal experiences and considerations,“ Nafe explains. In a constant interplay of moving and static picture elements, she creates an experiential space of two-dimensional surface and suggested spatiality, visual and haptic representation, surface and penetrated corporeality.

As an extension of the concept of drawing, the artist negotiates contemporary questions about presence and fleetingness using the technique of paper cutting and the resulting silhouettes and remaining outlines, and thereby discusses pictorial space as a sculptural object. The artistic strategy of the cut image also contains media-aesthetic qualities that appear in the play with light and shadow, in the interaction of positive and negative forms and in the perception of presence and absence. In addition, Nafe points to the semantic and symbolic dimensions of this medium through the partly serial appearance of ornament in her painting: ornament as a traditional form of knowledge of a collective visual memory into which mediated knowledge can be integrated.

Through her space-creating, space-changing artworks, be it in painting or collage technique, Nadja Nafe creates immediate perceptual situations and expands the classical concept of painting by using the triad of ‚time, space, form‘. She brings the constituent elements of colour, form, surface and material, which underlie her work, into a floating relationship, but deliberately leaves spaces open. But it is not the gaps with which the artist confronts us. She confronts us with what surrounds these spaces and thus connects the visible and the imaginable.

Because every void is an abundance. Because nothing has no form.

At least For the Moment.

NADJA NAFE

(*1984 in Tönisvorst, lives and works in Düsseldorf, DE)

EDUCATION

2004 - 2011 Studies at the Academy of Art Düsseldorf, DE, Prof. Katharina Grosse & Prof. Markus Lüpertz, Master Student

GRANTS & AWARDS

2016 Artist in Residence, Cannero Riviera, IT
2014 Residency of the city of Düsseldorf in Ein Hod, ISR
2012 - 2013 Studio fellowship, Lepsien Art Foundation, Düsseldorf, DE
2008 Hogan Lovells Artist award, Düsseldorf, DE
Residency, Volendam, NL

SOLO SHOWS (selection)

2018 Nadja Nafe. For the Moment, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE
2017 so und anders, Julia Ritterskamp, Düsseldorf, DE
wirklich – möglich, Kunstverein Paderborn e.V., Paderborn, DE
semipermeabel, Städtisches Museum Koenraad Bosman, Rees, DE
Labyrinth, Kunstraum-Unten, Bochum, DE
2015 Kunstverein Radolfzell e.V. (with Esther Naused), Radolfzell, DE
funken, Janzen Galerie, Düsseldorf, DE
wir werden sehen, Upstairs Gallery Meyer Bohlen, Oldenburg, DE
2014 behind curtains, Kunsthaus Mettmann e.V., Mettmann, DE
56 Days of March, Janco Dada Museum, Ein Hod, ISR
2013 Notiz zur Wirklichkeit, Galerie Schloss Neersen, Willich, DE
2012 der Sache einen Namen geben, Kunstraum Engelke, Neukirchen-Vluyn, DE
nichts dergleichen, Galerie Gegenwart, Karlsruhe, DE
2011 rawhide, Galerie Chaplini, Cologne, DE
2010 Nadja Nafe, SPK Gelsenkirchen, curated by Galerie Kabuth, Gelsenkirchen, DE
vertraute Nachbarn, Hermann Fischer Haus, Neuss, DE

GROUP SHOWS (selection)

2018 Gute Frage...!, Museum Zündorfer Wehrturm, Cologne, DE
2017 unter Tage, Kunstverein Bochumer Kulturrat e.V., Bochum, DE
Wabi-Sabi, Lager 3 / W57, Düsseldorf, DE
2016 art hoc-Kleinformat, Halle Reservat, curated by Klaus Meßner and Eric Derveaux,
Düsseldorf, DE
...unter Sternen, Kunstverein Kunsthaus Mettmann e.V., Mettmann, DE
Ponte-Ponte, Casa Pericolante, Cannero Riviera, IT
die Große, Museum Kunstpalast NRW, Düsseldorf, DE
2015 Genius Loci – here they come, Setareh Gallery, curated by Gérard Goodrow, Düsseldorf, DE
Lucky No. 13, Kunsthaus Mettmann e.V., Mettmann, DE
Mysterium Farbe II, Neue Galerie, Kloster Bronnbach, Wertheim, DE
Hier und Dort, curated by Margol Gutman and Avraham Eilat, Düsseldorf, DE
2014 time for a change, Galerie Braun-Falco, Munich, DE
Schau mir in die Augen, Kleines!, Kunstraum Engelke, Neukirchen-Vluyn, DE

SETAREH GALLERY

- Hin und Weg, Kunstverein Mischpoke e.V., Duisburg, DE
Slippers, Central Gallery, Ein Hod, ISR
Eberhard-Dietzsch-Artist prize for painting (nomination), Gera, DE
2013 Rundblick 2013, Kunstverein Kirschenpflücker, curated by Julia Ritterskamp, Cologne, DE
Düsseldorfer Heimatabend, Braun-Falco Galerie, Munich, DE
Grants 2012/2013, Lepsien Art Foundation, Düsseldorf, DE
2+2, Frappant e.V., Hamburg, DE
die Grosse, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE
lovehate, Kunstraum Gagarin, Düsseldorf, DE
2012 homeland, Galerie Chaplini, Cologne, DE
blamier mich nicht mein schönes Kind, Projektraum, Freies Museum Berlin, DE
Gerber – Nafe – Sossinka, Galerie Kabuth, Gelsenkirchen, DE
C'est pas grave mais c'est sans ciel, 9 rue Bertola, Nizza, FR
2011 Sommerausstellung, Galerie Gegenwart, Karlsruhe, DE
2010 Lonneker Kunstroute, Enschede, NL
2009 Graf Icken de Dorf, Kunstverein Brause e.V., Düsseldorf, DE
Lederlust – Lust auf Öl, Raum Kalk, Cologne, DE
2008 das Organ, Kunstverein Haus Heinrichsrot e.V., Mühlheim an der Ruhr, DE
Startbahn, Kunstverein Haus Spieß e.V., Erkelenz, DE
2007 Sommerfest, Kunstverein Region Heinsberg e.V., Heinsberg, DE
2006 Kunstverein Benrath, Düsseldorf, DE

COLLECTIONS

Janco Dada Museum, Ein Hod, ISR
Collection of the city Kaarst, DE
Collection of the city Willich, DE
Lepsien Art Foundation Abu Dhabi, UAE & Düsseldorf, DE
Hotel Spaander, Volendam, NL
Sparkasse Gelsenkirchen, DE

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection)

Nadja Nafe – Malerei, Collage, Scherenschnitt, 2016
Here they come, (exhib.cat.), Setareh Gallery Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf 2015
Eb-Dietzsch-Artist prize for painting 2014
Rundblick 2013, (exhib.cat.), Kunstverein Kirschenpflücker e.V., Cologne 2013
Grants 12/13, Lepsien Art Foundation, Kerber Verlag 2013
Düsseldorfer Heimatabend, (exhib.cat.), Braun-Falco Galerie, Munich 2013
Dimension Raum – Ausstellungen 2013, City of Willich 2013
Die Grosse 2013, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Verein zur Veranstaltung von Kunstausstellungen e.V., Düsseldorf 2013
Eb-Dietzsch-Artist prize for painting 2012
Orientierung Kunstakademie, (exhib.cat.), Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Schroedel Verlag 2009