

Vivian Greven

BUDUMN

November 11 - December 23 2017

Opening reception November 10, 6-9 pm

The exhibition "VIVIAN GREVEN. BUDUMN" presented by Setareh Gallery provides insights into the poetic and powerful artistic work of Vivian Greven. Paintings, objects, graphic works and texts by the artist are shown, which address – each in their own nuanced ways yet with a consistently conceptual and visual focus – the fundamental meaning of human existence, sensorial perception and sensuality. Working at the interface between figurative, conceptual and abstract painting, Vivian Greven effortlessly overcomes the traditional boundaries of classic artistic genres, employing various modes of artistic expression such as painting, graphic art and sculpture in order to explore the central subject of her artistic pursuit: the dualism between proximity and distance as well as the in-between and the counterpart or the vis-à-vis.

In her current artistic work, Vivian Greven begins with digital representations of striking details in baroque or classicistic sculpture (such as by Gian Lorenzo Bernini or Antonio Canova), which she then puts into focus, enlarges and transfers to her drawings, paintings or installations. This process not only creates a mimetic shift from the three-dimensional original to the two-dimensional image carrier via the digital representation, but it also enables the artist to perform a concise transferral of phenomenological connotations that run through centuries of art history. Whilst baroque or classicistic works of art mostly depict full-figure sculptural groups, Greven's representations of the body are almost exclusively reduced to the head or torso. By focusing on details and layers or surfaces, they mostly evade any sense of clarity and unambiguity. By virtue of the mimetic process (which does not serve to imitate art historical topoi but to expand and juxtapose them) and of the artist's masterful representation of human skin, Vivian Greven's paintings initially seem to have fallen out of time. Yet in their semantic, formal and conceptual explorations, they are highly contemporary and coherent – not because they adhere to any one artistic style, but because of their aesthetic approach: an empathetic observation of sensuality and sensibility and a general openness for the infinite possibilities in which form, sense and – above all – sensual associations are created and can be perceived.

In most cultures, the image of a couple touching each other or engaging in lovemaking bears something sacred. The pathos of this particular subject is reflected in the exhibition title "BUDUMN", in which Vivian Greven refers to the physical moment of contact between two human beings – a touch or the most fleeting of caresses that lasts as long as a heartbeat: "BUDUMN". The artist traces this moment of the heartbeat, which oscillates between becoming and fading, in her sensual, concentrated and decelerated pictorial spaces. Gently touched by artistic imagination, her canvases are covered with layers of fine glazes, creating transparent, elusive and illuminated coloured surfaces that drift towards and away from another: agreement and disagreement, harmony and tension, and tenderness and turbulence abound in the relentless play between proximity and distance. The seemingly haptic and subtle materiality of the surfaces of Vivian Greven's paintings and objects turn her work metaphorically into aesthetic experiences of skin centred around sense and sensuality. Alongside the transfigured expressions of the mask-like, anonymous entities she depicts, the artist refers to human matter and the human instinct to touch, thus evoking a sensual tension between the image/object and the viewer. Vivian Greven is in search of a sensuality that she wishes to rekindle and remember – a sensuality as fleeting as a heartbeat and, due to the pervasive digitisation and optimisation of the world, seems lost today. "My work picks up at this interstice. I wish to create a sensual connection – to the art historical element (our cultural past), to the artwork (our cultural present) and, finally, to the aspect of togetherness."

VIVIAN GREVEN

(*1985 in Bonn, lives and works in Düsseldorf, DE)

EDUCATION

- 2006-2015 Academy of Art Düsseldorf / Prof. Thomas Grünfeld & Prof. Siegfried Anzinger /
Master Student, DE
2007-2013 English Studies, StEx, University of Wuppertal, DE
2017 Residency, Vienna, AT
2011 Residency, London, UK

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2016 STRABAG Artaward International 2016, Recognition Award, Vienna, AT
2015 Setareh Future Masters Art Award, Düsseldorf, DE
2013 Academy scholarship of painting, Academy of Art Düsseldorf, DE

SOLO SHOWS

- 2017 BUDUMN, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE
GRAZIA, Aurel Scheibler, Berlin, DE
Eyes Wide Shut, STRABAG Artforum, Vienna, AT
2016 False Head, Galerie Thomas Fuchs, Stuttgart, DE
2014 Diana, Galerie Thomas Fuchs, Stuttgart, DE
2011 Vivian Greven, Museum Kunstraum Neuss e.V., Neuss, DE

GROUP SHOWS

- 2017 Akademie, KIT, Düsseldorf, DE
A Painter's Doubt: Painting & Phenomenology, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, AT
2016 140 Jahre WZ, Westdeutsche Zeitung, Düsseldorf, DE
Ghost (with Natascha Schmitt), Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE
Strabag Artaward International 2016, STRABAG Artforum, Vienna, AT
Die große Kunstausstellung NRW, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE
2015 Ping Pong (with Mevlana Lipp), Sittarder Straße, Düsseldorf, DE
Young Positions, Galerie Heinz Holtmann, Cologne, DE
Holy Shit, Ruelle, Mainz, DE
Genius Loci III, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE
Malerei, jetzt., KIT, Düsseldorf, DE
Künstler sammeln, Akademie Galerie, Düsseldorf, DE
2014 German Kleinformat, Kunstverein Koelnberg, Cologne, DE
Secret Land, Orangerie Schloss Rheda, Rheda-Wiedenbrück, DE
NODISCO, Projektraum Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf, DE
2013 Negligée, Ebertplatzpassage, Cologne, DE
Boogie Woogie, SAAL 3, Düsseldorf, DE
Daisy Chain, Academy of Media Arts, Cologne, DE
German Kleinformat, Lateral Art Space, Cluj, RU
Die große Kunstausstellung NRW, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE

- 2012 Small but Beautiful, Koeln-Art-Projects, Cologne, DE
German Kleinformat, Calle 6, San Pedro de los Pinos, MX
Vivian Greven & Alex Woyde, Koeln-Art-Projects, Cologne, DE
Konglomerat, Alte Papierfabrik, Solingen, DE
German Kleinformat, Calle 6, San Pedro de los Pinos, MX
German Kleinformat, Räume des Pilot Projekt für Kunst e.V., Düsseldorf, DE
Ralling Papers, Asta, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2011 German Kleinformat, Bermondsey Project Space, London, UK
Wihajster, Kredytowa 1, Warsaw, PL
- 2010 Figürliche Malerei, Kulturbahnhof Eller e.V., Düsseldorf, DE
Und immer fehlt mir etwas, und das quält mich, Kunstgruppe Kunstverein Köln e.V. - Salon
Schmitz, Cologne, DE
- 2009 Sigi - Klasse Anzinger, Kunsthalle Lichthof, Cologne, DE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Akademie. exhibition booklet, KIT, Düsseldorf 2017

Rumbach, Jennifer/Blank, Christoph: Nähe und Distanz - Ein Gespräch mit der Künstlerin Vivian Greven, in: kunstbar contemporary art, 2017

A Painter's Doubt. exhibition catalogue, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg 2017

Thorpe, Harriet: A Painter's Doubt, in: Studio International, 2017

Fritsche, Bence: Alternativlose Fakten. Zweifel im Salzburger Kunstverein, in: kunst:art, Österreich Spezial, 2017

Meister, Helga: Vexierspiele mit dem eigenen Ich und dem fremden Bild, in: Westdeutsche Zeitung, Düsseldorf 2017

LUPO. artist book, Vivian Greven & Natascha Schmitzen, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf 2016

Leisten, Georg: Das Ohr als Ereignis, in: Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgart 2016

Forstbauer, Nikolai: Der andere Blick, in: Stuttgarter Nachrichten, Stuttgart 2016

STRABAG Art Award. exhibition catalogue, STRABAG Artforum, Vienna 2016

Felske, Ninja Elisa: Der Körper das Seelengefäß. Vivian Grevens Wiederentdeckung der Erotik in einer sich spiegelnden Zeit, in: kunst Magazin, Cologne 2015

Malerei, jetzt. exhibition catalogue, KIT, Düsseldorf 2015

L'Avatar de Vénus. exhibition catalogue, Academy of Art Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf 2015

Leisten, Georg: Stille Wasser, in: Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgart 2014

Secret Land. Anne Carnein, Vivian Greven, Bettina Marx. exhibition leporello, Orangerie Schloss Rheda, Rheda-Wiedenbrück 2014