

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

FLORIAN BÜHLER

'Herrenwitz und Katzentisch'

16 - 28 June 2020

Opening Weekend Sat & Sun 13 / 14 June 10 am – 8 pm

Kirchgasse 33 | 8001 | Zurich

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept is pleased to present the solo exhibition "Herrenwitz und Katzentisch" on the premises of Beurret & Bailly Auktionen Galerie Widmer at Kirchgasse 33 in Zurich, featuring new works by Florian Bühler (*1983 in Lugano, Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland) Along with Bühler's paintings, heliogravures of some of the artist's works by Peter Pfister will also be on display.

The current exhibition showcases small to medium format oil-on-canvas works, including a self-portrait; an animal motif and around 15 still-lives, which have been conceived over the span of the three last years. The objects that materialize in the artist's still-lives stem from common everyday settings, finding a stage on canvas for works in which classic principles of painting blend in contemporary visual imagery with digital influences.

Next to serene, seemingly fetishist *arrangements*, rather shrill narrative compositions with set pieces of childish playfulness find themselves amongst almost morbid echoes in the tradition of the Dance of Death, so typical of still-lives. Dissimilar to Bühler's exhibitions to date, this exhibit's title "Herrenwitz und Katzentisch" does not stand for an unambiguous theme or motto, introducing the audience instead, to the idea of adopting spectacles through which his works can be appraised. Notable are prominent product placement flashes - such as Maggi, Panasonic, Kellogg's and others - which nod to the artist's penchant for Niklaus Stöcklin or Konrad Klapheck's body of work.

Florian Bühler's oeuvre is about painting and its power to create its own unruly and, at times, almost insidious reality. His style is typified by a genre of art that professes to be realistic. Through his meticulous use of paint, Bühler insinuates to precisely transfer the materiality of the original object into the picture. Through this tangible and fastidious reproduction, the viewer is led to believe that the surface of the motifs could almost be brushed over with their fingertips. At close range, however, covering the diverse media between the object and the viewer, one discovers a fine film of almost invisible fluff on the canvas. In this way, the divergent are brought together, while the stills and their reality move into a distinctively intangible distance. The pictures become hyper-realistic testimonies of the reality we supposedly thought we knew.

Despite the initial visual familiarity, the way these objects and figures originating from the realm of things actually feel, is swiftly no longer imaginable. Bühler's elaborate *modus operandi* is remarkable: the artist applies several coats of paint in various stages until the multitudinous layers close in on one another as a single finished surface. Stylistically as in the choice of his motifs, the artist's oil paintings refer to classical painting. He moves within portraiture, still-life and genre painting, whereby the individual genera habitually overlap each other.

Opening Hours | Kirchgasse 33 | 8001 Zurich:

Tue - Fri 11am – 18pm | Sat 11am – 5pm | or by appointment | Finnissage Sun 28 June 11am – 5pm

For visual material and further information, kindly contact:

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