

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

STÉPHANE ZAECH

Foie gras et fleurs sauvages

12 June - 27 June 2021
Opening 11 June 6 - 9 pm

Kirchgasse 33 | 8001 Zurich

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept is pleased to present the solo exhibition "Foie gras et fleurs sauvages" (Foie gras and wild flowers) with new works by Stéphane Zaech in the gallery space of Beurret & Bailly Auktionen Galerie Widmer at Kirchgasse 33 in Zurich. In addition to the paintings by Stéphane Zaech, a series of exclusive ceramic vases by Simone Fennel with a floral intervention by florist Urs Bergman will also be on display.

The paintings of Swiss artist Stéphane Zaech (*1966 in Vevey, lives and works in Montreux and Villeneuve, Switzerland) tempt us to look for the source of his inspiration. Zaech refers to the great masters of painting from Titian to Picasso and at the same time adopts artistic strategies of contemporaries. His painting, however, does not persist in simple pictorial quotations: the obvious illusion of "déjà vu" is broken by formal details or curious objects. There are exclusively figure and landscape motifs. He stretches the women's bodies in multiple perspectives, deconstructs the faces in a virtuoso manner and thus arranges an artistic reference to baroque showpieces. Combining the power of classical painting with alienating caricatures or unexpected deformations, Stéphane Zaech creates contradictory visions in his peculiar language.

"In his portraits, we find a clear borrowing from Cubism in the deformity and supernumerary organs of his figures, especially the eyes. Contrary to appearances, Zaech does not know in advance what will happen on the canvas. No easel in the open air, no long posing of models, above all no picture, but a "vision that blossoms in the painting itself". The technique allows him to freely associate fragments of memory and retinal persistence of everyday life. Stéphane Zaech skilfully quotes set pieces from art history. "Freedom is a discipline of reason." This quote by the painter Francis Bacon is taken up by the artist in an interview with Florence Grivel. In his case, it is rather the discipline that is freedom for reason. A paradoxical force that animates the work and allows him to claim (in contrast to his time) that great painting is far from having exhausted its possibilities and that one can continue to rub up against it casually, as Bacon or Picasso did in the last century and as John Currin or George Condo still do on the other side of the Atlantic. Zaech admits to having found in these American painters a family he no longer found in Europe. Currin and Condo both dared to follow the European tradition in an environment where painting seemed to have emancipated itself from any straitjacket, ignoring the figure, the subject and technique in favour of the glorification of creative power, consumerist triviality or the most literal materialism..." (Paul Bernhard)

Stéphane Zaech's work has been included in the solo exhibition The Voices of Painting, at MAMCO, Geneva, Switzerland, among other group exhibitions Contemporain... ou bien? La collection d'art BCV at the Fondation de l'Hermitage in Lausanne, at the CentrePasquArt in Biel in the exhibition Review and at the Kunstverein Offenburg Mittelbaden in Germany under the title ...it's only painting but i like it. His works are represented in several private and public collections in Switzerland and abroad. In spring 2022, a solo exhibition will take place at the newly renovated Musée des Beaux Arts de La Chaux de Fonds. At the same time, a comprehensive publication will be published by Hirmerverlag.

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Simone Fennel (*1966 in Zurich, Switzerland, lives and works there) has created a special series «*Big Mamas*» with large and exclusive vases for our exhibition, all with titles and certificates.

The ceramic artist forms all the vessels by hand using the hand-building technique. Each object is unique and exudes that irresistible one-of-a-kind beauty of not-quite-perfect genuine handiwork. But form is not the only thing that fascinates her about ceramic craftsmanship. She also loves patterns and colours. So she scratches, paints, dabs and glazes her works, turning them into dreamlike, charming, desirable objects of art. She lived with her family in Shanghai for eight years where she discovered pottery in China's Pottery capital Jingdezhen. Intensive pottery making and studies in Chinese and Japanese manufactories followed. In 2015, she launched her own brand, Fennel Pottery. (www.fennel-Pottery.com)

The exhibition is rounded off with a floral intervention by florist Urs Bergmann. (www.bergmann-florist.ch)

Opening hours Kirchgasse 33 | 8001 Zürich:

Mon - Fri 2 – 7 pm | Sat 11 am - 5 pm | and by appointment 079 660 34 10.

Save the dates

GALLERY WEEKEND Sat / Sun 12 & 13 June 11 am – 6 pm

FINISSAGE Sunday 27 June 11am - 4 pm

For visual material and further information, kindly contact:

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