

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

PRESS RELEASE

FLORIAN BÜHLER

Komfortzone

April 2–15, 2023

Kirchgasse 30, 8001 Zurich

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept is pleased to present the new solo exhibition “**Komfortzone**” with recent works by **Florian Bühler** (*1983 in Lugano, lives and works in Zurich).

In order to create a productive and beneficial working environment, it is said that Schiller kept rotting apples scattered throughout his study. Their fumes were believed to have had a stimulating and inspiring effect on him and his work.

Under the ambivalent exhibition title “**Komfortzone**”, Florian Bühler presents paintings that show both more obvious and more subtle references to earlier works of his own and that also remain materially and technically within the familiar framework of his practice. These are small- to medium-format paintings in oil on canvas, exclusively still lifes, including trompe l’oeil compositions, in which themes such as excess, hedonism, and decadence resonate. Rotting pears attempt to smile at the viewer (or perhaps wink?), a small M-Budget clock stands at five to twelve, and within one fruit still life another fruit still life has been arranged. In the new works, aspects that have characterized Bühler’s practice for years reappear: the still life as a stage, food as symbol, corporeality as suggestion, humor as a subversive element, and the medium of (panel) painting itself as a motif within the paintings.

Influenced by Baroque art and the movement of **Neue Sachlichkeit** (New Objectivity), Bühler’s painting is technically precise and at times reminiscent of the Old Masters. The surfaces are generally smooth, sensual, and meticulously executed. Layer by layer, the artist applies paint over paint until a dense, almost tangible materiality emerges—a process that requires considerable time.

The pictorial structure, which develops from forms and patterns, leaves subtle traces in the uppermost layer of paint—artefact-like marks that move the appearance of the works away from photographic realism. A certain unsettling distance arises between image and viewer: the objects resist complete comprehension, and their material familiarity turns into uncertainty. Painting becomes a place of shifted reality, where what is visible no longer fully corresponds with what is familiar. A quiet tension emerges between perfection and fragility, control and loss of control.

Although Florian Bühler is an artist who rarely works thematically, in this exhibition he remains not only technically (with the exception of a collage element on one painting, which could almost be considered a “stunt” within his practice), but also motivically within a self-chosen comfort zone, circling primarily around his domestic and studio environment.

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Amid overripe fruit and playful arrangements, the exhibition title becomes a reflection of his own artistic practice—hovering somewhere between ironic and serious self-assessment.

With “**Komfortzone**”, Florian Bühler presents a concentrated group of works that consistently continues—and at the same time updates—his engagement with the tradition of still life and genre painting. The exhibition invites viewers to question their own habits of seeing and to step outside the comfort of the seemingly familiar.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Opening (Vernissage)

Wednesday, April 1, 2023, 6–8 pm

Exhibition

April 2–15, 2023

Opening Hours

Tue–Fri 2–7 pm

Sat, Sun & public holidays 12–4 pm

and by appointment

Grand Finissage

Wednesday, April 29, 2023, 5:30–8 pm

with live music performance by **Lukas Langenegger**

Location

Kirchgasse 3

8001 Zurich