

TANJA POL GALERIE

Christina Chirulescu
03/04/14 - 24/05/14

When artists are at work in the studio, products are also created on the side or by coincidence. In the painter's studio, the things produced—aside from the canvases—are most likely traces of spray paint, edges, marks, and imprints. There are also materials and tools that fulfill particular purposes: brush, cloth, paper, canvas, palette knife.

In Christina Chirulescu's artistic practice, her interest shifts from the empty surfaces waiting to be organized to the peripheries, to coincidence, the externals of the painting. Analogously, the purpose of the tools also shifts to the point of near unrecognizability, allowing the accidental to occur. Cloths are used to wipe off a painted surface, erasing what has been fixed, taking it back to an uncontrolled state. Paint is spilled and blotted up with imprinted paper or canvas, which is then removed and, still damp, used for another image. In this way Chirulescu creates paintings—including the new large canvases in this show—that try to do justice to the quality of the ephemeral, to the coincidental discovery.

Chirulescu is interested in paintings, as well as images in the figurative sense, ones that seem to arise in the process of creation. In certain situations—the studio or in the rest of everyday life—one sees things that are not set and composed, but are byproducts of certain activities. The gaze does not remain fixed on the finished product; rather, the artist sees entirely unexpected “paintings” on the periphery. Representative of this is the motif on the invitation for this show: a photograph of a studio floor with its spots, dirt, crumbs, footprints, and scratches. Here, the significance of the artistic postulate shifts: How can I create lines/surfaces without painting lines/surfaces with a brush? Will my gesture be different if, for instance, I put two canvases face to face, transferring the paint from one to the other, and then make scratches on the back of a canvas with the brush handle? Basically: How can I create a painting and organize the surface, without organizing it?

Christina Chirulescu, born in 1974 in Romania, lives and works in Nuremburg. In 2013 she traveled to the United States on a grant from the state of Bavaria. In April 2014 she will travel to Vienna to live and work on a grant from STRABAG. There, her work will be featured in a solo exhibition.

Most recently she showed her work at the Kunsthaus Nuremburg in the group exhibition curated by Ludwig Seyfarth, GESTOHLENE GESTEN (Stolen gestures).