

TANJA POL GALERIE

THERE IS NO OUT THERE OUT THERE

26/06/15 - 31/07/15

THERE IS NO OUT THERE OUT THERE : this is the intentionally puzzling title of our group show, featuring paintings by Florian Meisenberg and Christian Hellmich, drawings by Tom Howse, vintage photography by Wolfgang Burat, collages by Stefanie Manthey and Robert Elfgen as well as a new wall work by Martin Wöhr.

The choice of works shown in this exhibition, which was curated by Tanja Pol, was motivated by a certain mood, a combined sense of ease and earnestness, humor and irony, knowing winks and laughing out loud, thought and emotion as two parts of the same thing. The exhibition does not circle around an issue, it does not seek to explain, to illustrate, or to politicize. Here, the view of the gallerist is presented in a format using works that she finds personally important to her.

In the gallery foyer, a new gloriole by Martin Wöhr (born in 1974, lives and works in Munich) develops its pull or explosive power, depending on the perspective.

The main space features a large 'empty' painting by Florian Meisenberg (born in 1980, lives and works in New York), with a subtle cloud of oil without pigment and a canvas that seems to lack foundation. On the right, a cigarette juts into the image, in times of health awareness, abstinence, and orthorexia an almost rebellious symbol in the emptiness of the quadratic visual space. Christian Hellmich (born in 1977, lives and works in Berlin) contributed a small format with black, opaque lacquered ornamentation on a seemingly transparent reddish-golden foundation.

Stefanie Manthey (born in 1976, lives and works in Basel) collages found visual material from advertising brochures, magazines and other paper media by cutting them out and arranging the various elements to create a new ensemble of visual objects. Her creations are rather intuitive, but also intelligent, very elegant, and also playful and sometimes poetic.

Robert Elfgen (born in 1972, lives and works in Cologne and Berlin) stains planks of wood and adds found materials, here aluminum foil. He treats the surface long enough until the wood and the foil remain recognizable, but the wooden plank turns into a sea landscape, with plays of light and spatial depth, generating a sublime, romantic mood.

Tom Howse (born in 1988, lives and works in London) usually draws in sketch books. In April 2014, he spent a month working in Munich at the invitation of the gallery; here, for the first time, he used loose sheets of paper for his drawing. We show a selection of more than 10 works. Wolfgang Burat (born in 1955, lives and works in Cologne) is well known for his portraits of musicians and artists: we show a vintage print with the feet of two skaters whose extremely worn out sneakers seem to announce the motto 'skate or die' as well as a portrait of Afrika Bambaataa's turntable with his hand while scratching.