

TANJA POL GALERIE

Youjin Yi

Unter Bewusstsein

In her new works, Youjin Yi engages in a broadest sense with the genre of the landscape. How does a contemporary artist work with this very traditional genre? For the artist, trees, lakes, animals, water, mountains serve primarily as occasions to paint, in her earlier works as well. In her recent paintings, Yi has primarily worked in the traditional English landscape format, playing with horizontal visual axis that is often also a mirroring axis. Tree trunks are reflected in a lake, water surfaces expand the visual surface almost ornamentally downward. She thus generates a depth of field through the highly placed horizon and a certain flatness in the image. The line separating landscape and reflection, between above and below isn't always clear. The gesture, the brushstroke is always visible, emphasizing an abstract element in the pictures. Yi works with brush and oil pastels alongside one another in the same picture. The use of fluorescent colors together with a muter palette produces virtually dramatic impressions.

Landscape: that always sounds like a link to reality and the reflection of an image. The owl in the tree is reflected in the water, it has its eyes open, but in the reflection they are closed. In the painted image nothing is real, a two-dimensional surface is organized with color. There is no direct link to reality here, only one that is played out. "Unter Bewusstsein," subconsciousness, or literally under consciousness: this play on words, divided into two and written in two lines on top of one another (see above), alludes to this level. Younjin paints her pictures on the floor, so in the process of painting there is no real top or bottom. The subconscious does not follow the everyday logic, nor does the painting. What happens under the surface, under water, behind the horizon, beyond reason, in depth, remains an allusion.

Youjin Yi, born in Gangneung, South Korea in 1980, has been studying under Günther Förg at Munich's Akademie der bildenden Künste since 2011. She lives and works in Munich.