

Maria Deppe

Opening: February 2nd 2007, 7-9 pm (duration of the exhibition: until March 10th 2007)

Maria Deppe's works are their own object. A painting process of layered coats of transparent colour offers glimpses of what lies beneath the surface and reveals the artist's complex interest in the spatial depth of colour. By means of a conscious limitation to the sole use of red and white, a great variety in technique emerges and revolves around the essential theme of developing space and form. The spatial depth, which is created by a multitude of nuanced shades of adjoining and overlying shapes and layers, and the exploration of colour itself is brilliantly realised and contrasted with graphical components and script-like shape-creations. Countless translucent applications of paint, or even a consciously induced bursting of the uppermost layers of paint, reveal fragments of the underlying ones to the eye of the beholder. Thus, the paintings achieve a powerful effect of three-dimensionality.

By focusing on the materiality of paint in her works, Maria Deppe endows them with a further unusual quality: now the use of the paintbrush, then applications by spatula of tempera of matt lustre are strikingly contrasted with the effects of coarsegrained chalks and colour pencils, and illustrate a sensitive study of the character and the surface textures of her materials. Maria's work „Hommage“, into which she integrated woven images of damask, is one impressive example of her feeling for colour, materiality and structure.

Viewed under a changing incidence of light, different parts of the painting obtain different levels of emphasis and permit the observer to rediscover the same work, time and time again (Il ricordo, 2005). Moods and states of mind and emotion play no small part in this. If you allow yourself to be led towards an archaeological way of observing you may find the resulting experience to be of an almost meditative quality. In this way, the process of artistic creation continues in the individual perception of the observer and makes Maria's works acutely relevant beyond the confines of time.

Maria Deppe (born 1973 in Cologne) developed her artistic skills in painting and art therapy studying at the Alanus College for Art and Society in Bonn. In 1999 and 2000 she trained in New Dance with the „Art of Movement“ in Freiburg. This was followed by studies in dance pedagogy at the „Off-Theatre Neuss“. Maria lives and works in Cologne since 2001.

Cologne 2007 Charlotte Mende

english version: Johannes Duretz