

## The enigma of arrival. Il mistero dell'arrivo | Jürgen Partenheimer

9 June – 26 August 2022

The solo exhibition *il mistero dell'arrivo* presents a body of new work of cross-media concepts including sculpture, painting, drawings and text of Jürgen Partenheimer following his five-year commitment to the comprehensive group of works of *One Hundred Poets*.

In the exhibition, the dialogue with sculpture, painting and drawing, their common presence enters a conversation about the complexity of the order of things and addresses the space they conquer and assume as an unequivocal position: *Topos*, *Tracks* and *Maze* draw the coordinates in which *Small Shapes*, the *Heart of Flowers*, *La Fortune* and *Drenched Moon Rising* meet. Within the eventful zones of imagination, we experience the *Redress*, the bringing back of the restoration of balance as well as a new beginning after five years of concentrated work on the *One Hundred Poets*.

In an incomparable way, Jürgen Partenheimer creates spaces of contemplation and visual imagination in which his abstract art does not show what is seen, but instead reveals spirit, movement, trace and energy, giving the movement of thought a visible form. Thus, Jürgen Partenheimer's complex oeuvre inspires experiences that reshape the realms of perception, thinking and doing.

Already in his fairytale-like parable *The lake is a river* Jürgen Partenheimer addressed as early as 1987 the unpredictable magic of creation which leads into the world of imagination: that realm of discovery where everything is conceivable and dreamable. Dare and dream characterize this area where all transformation unfolds and the never-ending new beginning of our attempts, of our approach as conscious action is defined.

The poetically abstract oeuvre of the German artist **Jürgen Partenheimer** (\*1947 in Munich, DE) stands in the great tradition of modernism, from which he consistently develops his work. In various forms of artistic expression – painting, sculpture, works on paper, artists books and text – he combines minimalist formal vocabulary with lyrical content. His work is characterized by an extraordinary relationship of line and form that invite to free association and trust the world of imagination. While avoiding the narrative, Partenheimer explores in his art a mental, geographical, historical and political space for a new correlation beyond sensual perception. Thus, Partenheimer could be described as a cartographer of imaginary worlds: he creates a universe in which the work of art becomes legible as a sign and event within a metaphysical, spiritual reality. For Partenheimer, abstract art is not self-referential, but opens up the possibility of transforming the movement of thought into a visible form. This unique approach was defined by the artist as „metaphysical realism“.

Jürgen Partenheimer was represented internationally as early as the 1980s with participations at the Biennales of Paris (1980), São Paulo (1981) and Venice (1986). Solo exhibitions of the artist's work have been held by the National Gallery Berlin (1988), the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (1997), the National Museum of Fine Art, Beijing (2001), the CGAC in Santiago de Compostela (1999 and 2004), the S.M.A.K. in Gent (2002), the Pinacoteca do Estado in São Paulo (2004), the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham and the Kunstmuseum Bonn (both 2008), and most recently at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the Gemeente Museum Den Haag, The Falckenberg Collection-Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (all 2014) and the Musée Ariana, Geneva (2016). Jürgen Partenheimer has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, the University of California, Davis, the Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, the Royal College

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of Art, Edinburgh, the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam and at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. Until 2011 he held a guest professorship for painting at the Muthesius Kunsthochschule Kiel.

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