

FRANZ ACKERMANN

Southbound

Opening: Friday, December 9, 2022, from 4pm

Exhibition: December 10, 2022 – February 25, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

We are pleased to announce our first solo exhibition with Franz Ackermann, which will take place in our Munich gallery from December 10, 2022 to February 25, 2023. The exhibition includes oil paintings and Mixed Media works on canvas and paper that have been created within the last three years.

Ackermann's works take us Southbound, to the south, more precisely to Hong Kong – a city where he lived in the 90s and developed his idea of the *Mental Maps*. The *Mental Maps* series comprises small-format watercolor and gouache sketches. The first ones were created on 13 x 17 cm Chinese paper in Hong Kong, a size he still likes to use.

The works show almost realistic architectural views, biomorphic ornamentation, cartographic moments mixed with abstract, garish and broken color areas and geometric constructions. These small drawings developed into an important tool not only to remember his journeys but also function as foundations for Ackermann's bigger paintings and spectacular large scale installations.

Ackermann uses a wide variety of techniques in his painting, including photography. The paintings with their saturated colors are inhabited with overlapping forms that merge with fragments of images taken directly from urban reality.

Ackermann's works, which to a certain extent are oriented towards pop aesthetic, open up a critical view of the processes of the living world. Fundamental to his creative process is travel and the experiences associated with it. Globalization and the issue of tourism also play an important part in his artistic explorations.

Franz Ackermann (*1963 in Neumarkt-St. Veit) lives and works in Karlsruhe and Berlin, Germany. Ackermann has exhibited extensively internationally, including significant solo exhibitions at PIFO Gallery (Beijing, 2019), Dirimart (Istanbul, 2017/2012), Berlinische Galerie (Berlin, 2013), Faena Arts Center (Buenos Aires, 2012), Kunstmuseum Bonn (2009), Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (2008), Irish Museum of Modern Art (Dublin, 2005), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid, 2003), Kunsthalle Basel (2002), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, 2002). The artist has been awarded the Art Prize of the City of Nordhorn in 1997, and in 2005 he was honoured with the "mfi Preis Kunst am Bau" for the redesign of the Munich underground station "Georg-Brauchle-Ring" (2003). Since 2001, Ackermann holds a professorship for painting at the Karlsruhe Art Academy.