



*Freundlicher Besuch beim Nachbarn ohne Ankündigung**

Dragutin Banic

22. April – 3. June 2023

On the occasion of his fourth solo exhibition at KM, Cologne-based artist Dragutin Banic (*1979) invites viewers to an ambiguous dialogue in the front room of the gallery with four wall-sized object paintings.

Untitled (CINEMA) expands the pictorial space of the canvas with assembled architectural fragments. The strict composition stands in an ambivalent relationship to the playful connection of the materials. The composition is inserted by the artist into the architecture of Werner Düttmann, so that from the picture a new space is opened for projections.

Tiho kroz dolinu (quietly through the valley) in the space niche offers a reading direction that turns the relief into an image narrative that goes beyond the elements depicted. The bricks and trash cans refer to an undefined place, a backyard, a wasteland whose promise is a provisional shelter.

Another complex pictorial narrative develops from an amorphous black disc in the work *Spaziergang 2*. The arrangement here follows the rules of water to visualize phenomena of change and exchange. A solitary figure stands implied, almost dissolving on a path leading out of the pictorial space. The figure's head is also the outflow of a rain pipe. Oversized drops flow down the body of the figure and connect with the path. A red dome-shaped body glows in the background, overlaid with abstracted branches. Water also flows from the rain pipes framing the image on the left and right. The upper right side is a glowing water-blue field. Only the real rain gutter mounted on the painting remains dry.

In *Untitled (Day-Night)*, isolated geometric bodies shine out of a dark space, the multiplicity of which only becomes apparent upon close inspection. A daylight window lets the viewer gaze into a barren, strangely inviting landscape in which bare trees enclose a pale disk of sunlight. Here, too, water flows into the dark pictorial space through comic-like rain pipes, tense shading connecting the solitary colorful geometric bodies.

The water collects in the conical body of zinc sheeting to drain through the rain pipe. A beak-shaped pipe prevents the gutter from overflowing if the pipe becomes clogged, or too small to hold the water. It is mounted on a glowing red screen. Appearing monochromatic from a distance, the work *Balkon 2* reveals constellations of toned shapes framed by a vibrant green band. The sides of the painting are framed in zinc gray, and a puddle has formed at the lower edge of the picture.

The object paintings of Dragutin Banic are constellations of symbolic substitutes composed in the pictorial space, which relate to each other as if on a playing field and carry a subtle humor as well as melancholic moments. The dynamically painted fields between these representatives are abstract spaces of movement that turn into the figurative. The brushstroke carries this flow across the individual works, like abstracted water that can flow freely and unguided, giving life through circulation.

**Friendly visit at the neighbor without notice*