

Ulrich Wulff

'Paintings 2017 – 2023'

July 29 – August 26, 2023

The surface is the defining stylistic device of the painter Ulrich Wulff. It is the starting point of all his works. Sometimes monochrome and finely painted, sometimes blotchy and oscillating between figurative pictorial elements and geometric abstraction, he creates scenes that reflect the artist's humorous self-image. Wulff, who was born in Kempten and lives in Berlin, paints encounters and attractions of a social nature and the places of these interactions. His figures are stylized; carry borrowings from comic and cartoon representations and operate in the loose spaces of an abstract geometric environment that the artist stages on the surface of the canvas. He points out the faces of his protagonists with googly eyes and clown noses and delivers them to absurd situations. The conceptual paintings also reveal his interest in art history; citations of classical modernism are unmistakable. And just as the painters of classical modernism followed a path from the figurative to the abstract, Ulrich Wulff also seems to walk in these footsteps. In *Paintings 2017 – 2023*, the change in his works can be traced concretely. The surface and its composition once again come into focus during this period and thus negotiate the conditions of the site. This is accompanied by a stricter approach to composition and colorfulness. Complementary colors clash and underscore the rigorous structuring of the paintings. What is striking here are the clearly visible preliminary drawings, which become a structuring and stylistic element of the works. With this gesture Ulrich Wulff reveals the playing field of the painterly and the framework of its production process.

Ulrich Wulff (*1975, Kempten) lives and works in Berlin. He studied Japanese studies, art history and cultural studies and has been working as a visual artist since 2002. His work has been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including Galerie Bernd Kugler, Innsbruck (2022), Alfonso Artiaco, Naples (2022), Spurs Gallery, Beijing (2022), Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles (2019), Freddy, Baltimore (2018), Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2016), Salon Dahlmann, Berlin (2013) and many more.

Text: Undine Rietz

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