

Lina Sommer

2 – 1 – 0

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Why does it feel so familiar looking at Lina Sommer's work cycle? A canny familiarity. But why is it so difficult to pin point? Her work thrives from this strange in-between-moment of unutterable awareness of its language. "2 - 1 - 0" shows four large-sized paintings on paper. They are fixed on the wall with magnets and reach the ground. Three of them are placed in an overlapping rhythm on the right wall and exist in this orchestration as an ongoing narration. The fourth paper on the left wall stands alone and distinguishes itself subtle from the others in its technique and presence. Lina Sommer's work thrives from this strange in-between-moment of unutterable awareness of its language that is. They embody a canny familiarity that is difficult to pin point. The pieces of paper contain watercolor, China ink and are processed by various tools. The paintings are lively surfaces that expand out of their flatness into various forms of bodies like valleys, mountains and plains. In a closer view, the details on the large-sized paintings contain another layer of materiality and narration. The precise lines and the crystalline drying up of the pigment look like a mixture of topographic lines, brush marks appear like touches or mists, layered gestures reveal a sensual physicalness. Lina Sommer uses earthy colors and each of them shifts into another proportion of blue, black, brown, green and red.

Sommer follows a distinct narrative approach in her artistic process, each show bringing to light a new story or cycle as she would call it. Here in the installation, lines of color overlap and trespass from one sheet to another while the imagery grows in size and volume, giving an idea of a beginning and an end. But what's the story to be told?

In "2 - 1 - 0", each of its pieces negotiates a strong contrast of light and shadow, color and blank. While Sommer works with themes like transparency, dynamic, permeance, diffuence, wet and dry, she catches more than just the rhythm of herself working, more than just a play with the including material. Sommer's work contains a deep lyrical and poetic energy, that she channels onto paper. A strange and refreshing contrast for a painterly working habit.

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