

Ruhe!
25/01 – 21/02/2025

Press release

Munich – With *Ruhe!*, pip brings together two artistic positions that interrogate the representation of temporality, memory, and social narratives. Babi Brüller and Benedikt Gahl explore the interplay between individual modes of expression and collective historical imaginaries, opening a dialogue between figurative and abstract painting, between narrative density and formal reduction. Their works oscillate between past and present, the private and the political – an invitation for viewers to reflect on the ephemeral and the enduring within both art and society.

Babi Brüller's visual world is populated by Medusa-like heads, wide, unblinking eyes, and doll-like figures poised between innocence and abyss. Her works refuse a singular temporal grounding – figures clad in uniform-like attire are interspersed with contemporary details; Christian and Jewish iconography collides with pop-cultural references. Like a correspondence between historical memory-images and contemporary visual production, Brüller's paintings unfold as layered reflections on identity, history, and trauma. Their almost performative materiality heightens the tension between past and present, making it palpable on the painted surface itself.

Benedikt Gahl's practice engages with the formal and physical conditions of painting itself. His works move away from expressive, gestural language towards a more flattened, structured engagement with space and surface. His most recent paintings take up the motif of banners and placards as seen in historical demonstrations – a study of the political dimensions of visibility and representation. Presented in a narrow horizontal format, suspended high above the heads of the viewers, Gahl's canvases introduce an immediate sense of distance and elevation. While Brüller seeks to render historical spectres tangible through figuration, Gahl, through painterly abstraction, gestures towards the structural dimensions of collective remembrance.

Ruhe! – the title of the exhibition – can be read as a paradoxical statement: a demand for stillness in an era saturated with images, a moment of contemplation that simultaneously unsettles. It carries an authoritarian resonance – a command to impose silence, a call for control and order that can evoke unease. The exhibition probes the relationship between artistic introspection and collective perception, between what presents itself directly and what remains fragmented or emerges only through oblique association.

pip operates as a platform for interdisciplinary artistic practice and social reflection. Situated at Türkenstraße 21 in Munich, the space is run by artists Julian Arayapong, Andreas Lech, Regina Rupp, and Lou von der Heyde. Through exhibitions, concerts, and readings, pip fosters a discursive environment that bridges art, theory, and public engagement.