

Olaf Quantius
Sterne und Warten (Stars and Waiting)
15.01 - 05.03.2005
Opening 14.01. 19-21 Uhr

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Discussion with Olaf Quantius about the exhibition *Sterne und Warten (Stars and Waiting)*

Your paintings oscillate between a conceptual and romantic approach to painting. But instead of telling a story, you confront the viewer with a kind of visualization of an unpronounceable formulation. Where would you „locate“ your paintings?

Probably the main subject is the astonishment in recognizing that someone or something *exists*. In this moment a slight dissociation begins; a mystery of visibility begins and releases a never ending series of the self ensuring its existence. This gap between the present and thinking about present can be reflected visually in painting.

You are used to working in series. The series “Danaide” (2000-2002) consists of non-figurative compositions, instead your latest series „Ott nang“ (2003), „Silverlake“ (2004) and “Stars and Waiting” (2004-05) combine figurative and abstract representations. This change seems to be quite normal in your work, what you do think about it?

Beyond the specificity of painting, like paint, its miscibility and different ways of painting, I always was interested in references outside of the medium. With the “danaides” the title references a greek myth about life and death, uniqueness and eternity, and while the latest series combines figurative and abstract painting, I always try to find a framework of contents where on the one hand a contemporary sensation is expressed and on the other hand the specificity of painting is able to unfold again and again.

How could you describe the title of you new series “Sterne und Warten” (Stars and Waiting)?

To simplify, I could say that the abstract paintings are a kind of non scientific portraits of stars, and that the term “Waiting” has three different meanings for me. On the one hand it alludes to an observatory and on the other hand it has a sense of taking care of, waiting for and/or expecting something. Similar to missing something, the act of waiting has a creative, longing, non conformist arbitrariness. As a synonym this expansive feeling functions the representation of the observatory where Edwin P. Hubble discovered the “Hubble-Effect”, the expansion of all galaxies at an increasing speed. On the occasion of your gallery, you also could compare observatories with galleries.