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Trägerschaft / operated by  
Kunstverein Medienturm  
ZVR: 542738445

→ Doris Piwonka  
08.06. –  
25.07.2013

Opening  
07.06.2013  
8 p.m.

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→ The artistic practice of Doris Piwonka (born 1968, Judenburg) is a prime example of painting that is cognisant of one's own historical conditions, but also of the present-day situation. Moreover, it stands for the pursuit of a discourse on contemporary painting, which is asserted with faith in the renewable, aesthetic, and visual energies inherent to the medium. In Piwonka's first institutional solo exhibition, held at the Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien (KM-) in Graz, an exemplary selection of paintings from several work complexes and creative periods will be on show, extending beyond a purely formal interest in painterly matters. The artist presents painting not in the sense of discerning withdrawal but, on the one hand, by stepping out of her canonical discourse of crisis while subtly integrating its boundaries and realities and, on the other, by demonstrating awareness of a media-reflexive perspective.

"Over the years, this strategy increasingly gains in complexity. Like set pieces, more and more painterly means are integrated into the pictures, which, taken in isolation, do not want to be something new; yet through a steady arrangement and rearrangement, they overwrite the impression left by what has already transpired and so begin to radiate renewed strength and independence" (Martin Prinzhorn).

Continual developments and refinements of Piwonka's pictorial language are perceptible thanks to their coherence. In her paintings, picture surfaces separate the space of contemplative, planar spaces of colour from the realm of pragmatic reflexion on the place where the image exists and on the conditions and implications of this existence. A kind of dual-sided topography informs these paintings. The relation between foreground and background colouring is likewise highly involved, with the image sections divided as if into two pictorial spheres, suggesting an affective point of access to the picture. Despite irritations regarding the placing of paint layers, her painting demonstrates the illusory character of that first demarcation with which the image sections off its own space as image: rectangular forms contrast with the colour fields on which they are placed, delineating the only clear lines in the picture and opening potentialities of differentiation, especially through their distance to the frame.

The extent to which referential remnants of a material reality may still play a role here likewise remains suspensefully open, solely borne by the employment of painterly means. Unfolding along these painstaking sequences of undecidability are ambivalent contexts posited between the resoluteness of form and the indeterminateness of its borders. Piwonka succeeds in garnering from painting, from the organisation of coloured surfaces, from its materiality and historical overweighting those possibilities, means, and painting styles that are not confirmed by self-referential legitimisation discourse, nor primarily geared to academically codified methods — but rather those that streamline the meaning-charged question as to how a painting is made and what it represents along the idiom of abstraction.

Catalogue: Doris Piwonka, Malerei | Painting (Vienna: Schlebrügge.Editor, 2011)

Exhibitions (Selection):

Temporäre Autonome Zone, Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna  
BOBOEGGOHOJOKRLEPISTIWI, Atelier Blattgasse, Vienna (2012)  
Georg-Eisler-Preis 2010, exhibition of the work of nominated artists, Bank Austria  
Kunstforum, Vienna (2010)  
Concetti di pittura, ar/ge kunst Galleria Museo, Bolzano (2006)  
Grant by the Province of Styria for the contemporary visual arts, Neue Galerie Graz  
(1999)

On 7 June a free shuttle service will be offered as part of the CMRK exhibition openings at Camera Austria, < rotor >, Grazer Kunstverein, and KM– (all exhibitions will have extended opening hours on this day from 6–10 p.m.): departure Vienna, 3 p.m., Opera, IKEA parking lot; return departure, Graz, 11:30 p.m., KM–, Burgring 2.

**An Art Day's Night:**

Concert: Susanna Gartmayer, "aouie", 20.06.2013, 7 p.m.

Artist talk: Doris Piwonka, 20.06.2013, 7:30 p.m.

Lecture: Martin Prinzhorn, 04.07.2013, 7 p.m.

Curators talk: 11.07.2013, 7 p.m.

Press talk: 07.06.2013, 1 p.m.

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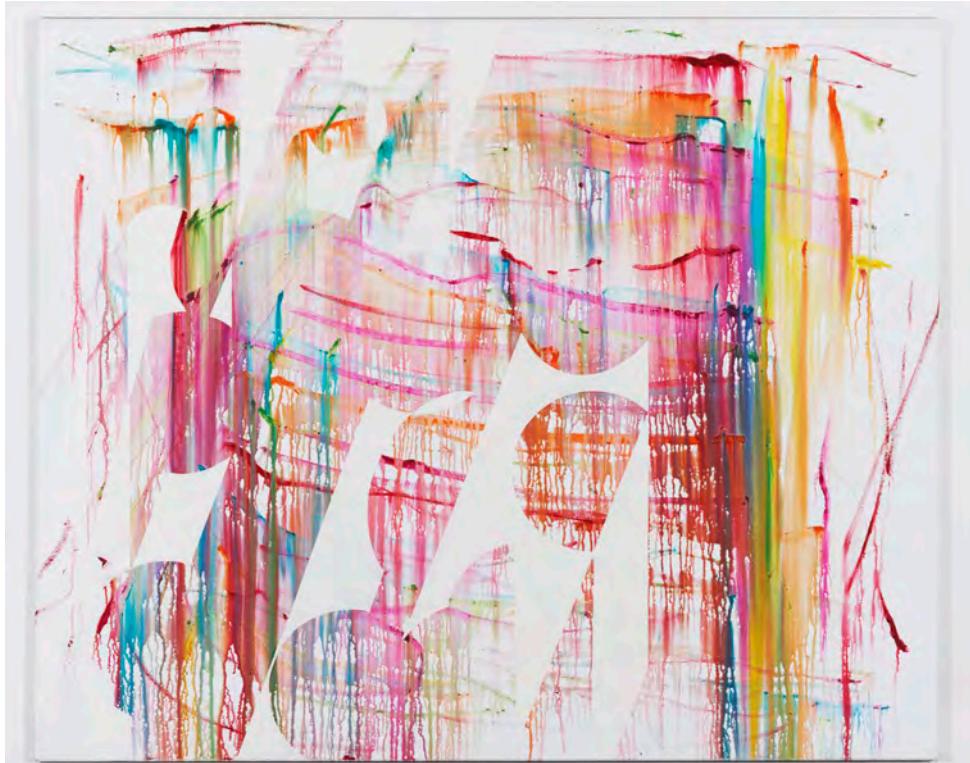
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Doris Piwonka, o.T., 2013, oil on linen, 200 x 175 cm, Courtesy the artist, photo: I. Furcat



Doris Piwonka, o.T., 2012, oil on linen, 185 x 165 cm, Courtesy the artist, photo: I. Furcat



Doris Piwonka, o.T., 2009, oil on linen, 140 x 170 cm, Courtesy the artist, photo: M. Winkelmann



Doris Piwonka, o.T., 2013, oil on linen, 200 x 165 cm, Courtesy the artist, photo: I. Furcat