

BERND RIBBECK

September 19 — October 31, 2018

Opening

September 19, from 7 to 9 PM

Bernd Ribbeck, born in 1974, is known for his singular approach to the subject of painting and colour: he combines traditional painting techniques with marker pens or ballpoint pens on fibreboard (or with ink on cardboard submerged in water). The artist thereby layers and alters the surfaces of his paintings, rendering them uniquely distinctive.

Ribbeck's small-format paintings resemble "reliefs" in their structure. The painting surface (MDF board) is primed. The acrylic composition—with symmetrical and geometric features—defines the base colour and covers the entire surface. By means of a grinding machine, this area is mechanically modified so that the painting's base surface becomes partially visible again. Subsequently, the surface is reshaped with marker and ballpoint pens; foreground and background of the areas and shapes that create the mosaic-like composition approach one another—they appear inseparable.

Along with the various techniques (acrylic, markers, ink, etc.), Ribbeck's formal and consciously "analogue" play examines the effect of colour and area. Not only does he draw on classical painting of Renaissance and Baroque art, but also on the beginnings of abstraction between 1905 and its development by Bauhaus artists, such as Johannes Itten or Paul Klee. The relatively small format of the paintings also plays an important role, in that the concentration on a restricted field simultaneously reinforces the colour intensity.

Bernd Ribbeck presents five new paintings at Mehdi Chouakri. Based on the same isometric grid, nearly all paintings display non-identical compositions. While the dominant hexagon plays an important role, the intense colour radiance is evocative of classical stained glass painting. The paintings are complemented by an ink work on paper, which shows colour fields as rhombuses set against one another; their colour concentration exposes a visual vibrancy.

Within the last ten years, Bernd Ribbeck's work has been exhibited in numerous international galleries and museums, i.a. the Museum Haus Konstruktiv in Zurich and the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen. His works are represented in various private collections throughout Europe, America and Asia, as well as in public collections, such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, the Städtischen Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich or the Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf.

Galerie Mehdi Chouakri

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