

**Architecture and Abstraction**

Andrea Grützner, Friederike von Rauch, Tanja Rochelmeyer and Maximilian Schubert

Curated by Katharina Pilz

**Opening:**

Saturday 14 January, 6 – 9 pm

**Duration:**

14 January – 4 March 2017

**Location:**

68projects, Fasanenstraße 68, 10719 Berlin

If one were to look for similarities between Constructivism, Suprematism, Concrete Art, Hard-edge painting and Minimal Art, one would find them in abstraction. The shared aim is to break free from any reference to the object, combined with a shift towards a pictorial reality, constituted through colours and shapes, light and shade. The “new abstraction” of the 21st century, however, gets by without a programmatic reference to the discourse of historical modernism. It doesn’t pursue a purely rationalistic or objective creation of form, like Concrete Art, for instance. While it certainly draws from these sources, it finds its own agile, independent character through a more subjective, individual stance.

The main focus of the exhibition “Architecture and Abstraction” is on geometric-constructive works, whose primary source of inspiration is architecture. Common to all artistic positions on display is the creation of unmistakable forms that simultaneously dispense with any documentary or representational characteristics.

In her latest series, the photographer **Andrea Grützner** focuses on the architecture of the 1950s. During a fellowship at the “Koblenzer Stadtfotografen”, in the summer of 2015, the artist explored Koblenz’s public urban space, with a focus on facades and their grids, which she translates into vibrant, graphically formed picture details. She thereby concocts image fragments that are painterly, abstract and surreal, and which have nothing in common with what we usually perceive as urban architecture. Although Andrea Grützner’s medium is photography, her works oscillate between photography, sculpture and collage. She is as much interested in the perception of structures of space, history and memory, as she is in visual irritations, in that which is both familiar and unusual.

Through their contemplative character, **Friederike von Rauch**’s pictures of deserted light-spaces in museums, monasteries and Venetian palazzi, uncover unique worlds with an almost infinite potential for narratives and stories. Mostly taken outside opening hours, the images contain highly personal interpretations of space, bringing out the specific character of each place and, owing to their calm observation, creating emotional condensations. The focus on small pictorial details neutralizes their depictive character in favour of strongly abstracted images. Colour, or rather colourlessness plays a vital role. Friederike von Rauch works analogically with a medium format camera, always using the available light.

In her paintings, **Tanja Rochelmeyer** creates “visions of space”: delicate, almost floating hybrids, which refer to the polydimensional structure of the Internet. In her works, colour functions as both form and content, creating geometrical, labyrinthine configurations of splintered spaces, shaped by perfect colour gradients in impressive clarity. Although the main theme of all of her works in the exhibition is spatiality or spatial visual experience, the relation between background and figure, between top and bottom, remains in suspension; some individual works even lack a definite orientation and function both horizontally and vertically.

In his monochrome works, the New York artist **Maximilian Schubert**, a guest at 68projects, explores the

limits of painting and sculpture, as well as the theme of the trompe l'oeil. The works in his "Untitled" series initially seem like white monochrome canvasses, whose surface texture is reminiscent of the folds of a curtain. In reality, however, the folded texture is cast. The only hint for the viewer that "nothing is as it seems" is the visibility of a delicate web of cracks and occasional imperfections. The wall behind the piece becomes visible.

**Andrea Grützner** (\*1984) lives in Berlin and is a member of the photography collective Exposure Twelve. She studied communication design and photography. In recent years, her works have been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows, most recently at the Kunstverein Lüneburg, at Galerie Robert Morat, at the Beijing Photo Festival, and as part of the exhibition "Gegenspieler" at the Marta Herford Museum. Grützner received the "Gute Aussichten- junge deutsche Fotografie" award 2014/15, the Foam Talent Award and the Young Talent Award of Pfalzpreis Kunst, both in 2016.

**Friederike von Rauch** (\*1967) trained as a silversmith and studied industrial design. Her works have been shown in numerous exhibitions in Germany and abroad, most recently in "Formes du Silence" at the Couvent de La Tourette, Eveux, "Zeitgeist. A Arte de nove Berlim" at the Goethe Institutes of Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia et al., in "Radikal Modern", Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, "10", Halle am Berghain, Berlin, "Ashes and Gold: A World's Journey", Marta Herford Museum, and at the "Gabriele Münter Preis 2010", Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin. As part of different studio scholarships, von Rauch has worked in Belgium, the Netherlands and Iceland. Her works are featured in public and private collections in Germany and abroad.

**Tanja Rochelmeyer** (\*1975) studied at the HTW- University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. In recent years, her works have frequently been exhibited in Germany and abroad, for example, at the Studio d'Arte Cannaviello in Milan, as part of the exhibition "Neue Malerie aus Deutschland" at the National Fine Arts Museum in Hanoi, as well as at the Goethe Institute in Hong-Kong, the Kunsthaus Essen and at fahnmeyer projects in Berlin. Rochelmeyer's works can be found in several international collections.

**Maximilian Schubert** (\*1983) studied at the Art Institute in Chicago. His works have been exhibited internationally, most recently in the group exhibition "Line" at the Lisson Gallery in London. His works are included in collections in the US and in Europe.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are happy to provide printable images on request.

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