

GALERIE SANDRA BÜRCEL

Anna Steinert Cobalt Necessity

Opening Reception Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m.
April 25 - June 8 2017

The solo exhibition „Cobalt Necessity“ of Anna Steinert debuts a new body of works of luminous sky paintings: two surfaces in radiant turquoise blue – they could as well represent cloudy pond water –, a gestural space of baroque colour, and two supposedly nocturnal scenes, with round dots of *Irrlicht*, or stars, wandering over a dark ground. A velvet materiality of these points of white and bright pigment gives the paintings a nervous chill. He who prefers to keep the light on at night may find these paintings, or any other painting peaceable. The exhibition of the artist, whose works of former origin were largely concerned with the frontality of faces, with masks and the grotesque in ornament and (animal) figure, constitutes a self-granted focus on less form and, consequently, on absorption, or even drafts a composure that addresses this question: What is left to be told, if, as Andrei Tarkovsky put it into a monologue in "Stalker" (1979), *everything begins to change, as soon as humans appear?*

Narration and abstraction break up strangely here. Perhaps, figuration and face haven't entirely given way to abstraction. It is indeed possible to have them lying underneath the final coats in remains or as a replaced whole image. Hatchings are carried into the layers above and hence form dry, soft textures. The spectrum of thin glazes, varnish in various degrees and brittle oil pastel pencil resembles fresco or encaustic painting. Solid form thereby resolves, "pulverises", as Anna Steinert puts it, and furthermore admits she had an aversion to the brushstroke. It is merciless that you have to show your face every day. Maybe abstraction is a bit like a mask. It wipes off moral conventions, and takes away the fright of our own face. And those who do not know that they carry it, wear it in the most perfect way.

At the opening a clothes change inspired by the haiku „Coabalt Necessity“ (Richard Brautigan) will take place within the exhibition.