

Amélie von Heydebreck – *Metamorphosis*

7. – 22. Juli 2023

Opening: Thursday July 6, 7 – 9.30 pm

Expansion into space

Rarely have I encountered a pictorial metaphor for an issue as vividly and forcefully visual as in the light paintings of Amélie von Heydebreck.

I am thinking of the phenomenon of the mixing of two substances, or two states of aggregation, the penetration of light in darkness or vice versa, the merging of different colors. Where is the beginning, where is the end?

If one goes from the macro- to the micro-range, i.e. where there are smallest particles - perhaps still visible with the eyes - one could understand this phenomenon particularly well. In diffusion, two liquids mix over time. In the area where one liquid is still homogeneous, nothing can be seen except, for example, the color value of one, and likewise vice versa. But where they meet, individual particles buzz and dance around and migrate dynamically to the opposite area.

And this is where the pictorial plastic modulation of Amélie von Heydebreck's light paintings (applied as a pigment print on aluminum dibond) comes into play, as a way of visually reproducing this principle of particles colliding. An ordinary pigment print applied to paper could perhaps represent the facts as well. But the physical nature of the pigment print on the aluminum support is characterized by its microplasticity, which can be experienced with the naked eye as a delicate relief. The drying process seems to be different than on the paper to be printed. Where individual 'color spots', e.g. red on blue or vice versa, are already distinguished by the light value of the color, one can vividly perceive the 'upsetting' of the color pigments. The naked eye experiences this plastic reality of the pigments glued on top of each other especially in the color range where the dancing mixing begins. But even in the color clouds or centers that appear dominantly monochrome, the individual parts, the color particles, can be precisely traced in their accumulation when the eye has become accustomed to the color flash. The individual color spots appear as if dabbed and are full of dynamics.

No wonder the artist calls her works light paintings.

The very idiosyncratic technique of haptic-plastic application of the color pigments to aluminum suggests painting, because the pigment clearly becomes a material in its own right and is not merely a mediator or carrier of color. The fact that the artist also specifies painting as light painting is due on the one hand to physics, since color is nothing other than light in a defined wavelength range. But it also refers to the process of creating the

works, which generates the image result through sophisticated and often investigative and exploratory arrangements of light sources and the filters covering them made of natural textiles such as wool and the like. The dimming, the softening of the hard light, the breaking up into certain color spectra, the assignment of the light sources to each other in the square of the picture work to be created, and then the adventure in the materialization of the print-technical result allow the picture work to be understood as a work of art developed from long hand and with a long breath, which has a subtle, almost poetic radiance inherent in it. The works exude an almost metaphysical calm, are precisely set in their image-inherent structure, and have undergone a metamorphosis, at the end of which stands the subtle and powerful light painting.

And the compositions have it all! The color clouds - that's a pretty accurate description of the color areas, because there are denser and less dense, seemingly monochromatic color constellations - interpenetrate in the foursome and are a highly thoughtful and image-generating visual setting developed in many steps, modulating the living 'breathing' of color and its change to another color value, in another color cloud, as a painterly image. The color splashes shimmer and vibrate, performing an energetic dance - the metamorphosis of color energy fields made pictorial.

Concretely and figuratively. Metamorphosis!

Semjon H. N. Semjon, July 2023