

Klaus Steinmann – *Freedom in Painting*

October 17 – November 20, 2025

Opening: Thursday, November 16, 7 – 9.30 pm

Klaus Steinmann, born in Darmstadt in 1939, looks back on a long artistic career. As a young man, he had the opportunity to experience 1959 the legendary exhibition *The New American Painting*, which toured Europe and was also shown at the Berlin University of the Arts on Steinplatz – and it made a deep impression on him.

So much so that he never allowed himself to be completely drawn into the disputes over direction and factional struggles in and around Concrete Art. Klaus Steinmann went his own way. Constructive art as a tool, yes, but enriched by the (visual) experience of American Minimal Art and Color Field Painting. The basic shapes of the rectangle, circle, and triangle have accompanied him throughout his artistic life and continue to do so today. Placing these shapes in tension with the multifaceted image background has allowed him to create a very differentiated and rich oeuvre.

From the late 1980s onwards, he added a painterly-sculptural ally: the shadow. By partially sawing through the mostly small-format plywood panels covered with fabric as a painting surface, folding forward or stepping back partial forms, he creates an astonishing puzzle of front and back, allowing the shadow to break up the strict geometry of the painted forms and breathe delicate modulation into them.*

Since last year, he has been radicalizing the idea of relief and using the drawn line as its counterpart. Sometimes it is no longer clear whether the detail is three-dimensional or simply a drawing, a real spatial gradation or a trompe l'oeil ("trompe graphite").

According to Steinmann, white is the color of freedom. But it is useless. Working with it is the great challenge.

In his daily studio practice, whether in Walsrode or in his Berlin studio, the artist creates his own space of freedom. Freedom makes you happy when you can shape and use it creatively.

Klaus Steinmann feels it every day in his work, and his joy in it is immeasurable. It is his life. Freedom in painting!

Semjon H. N. Semjon

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*The fact that painter Klaus Steinmann is also a talented sculptor is evident from his wall and hanging objects, which he repeatedly creates alongside his paintings. Three of these are also on display.