

Fokus Garten-Salon: Bettina Weiß

December 4th, 2016 – January 30th, 2016

With her first solo exhibition at Semjon Contemporary Bettina Weiß presents some of her paintings of the past two years, with the focus on works painted on wood. Over the last three years, her works have been shown in the gallery rooms in ever-changing constellations and contexts, in a dialogue with works by other artists presented in the gallery.

The paintings on wood are presented in the formats 50 x 50 and 24 x 24 cm and seem to float in front of the wall due to a particular framework providing them with a certain lightness and underlining the subtle delicacy of the depicted forms and colours that always corresponds to the wooden ground, sometimes emphasizing its structure, sometimes opposing and overlaying it. Reduced clear, prismatic shapes and circles or segments of circles as well as radial and fan-shaped beams of colour combine with each painting's balanced array of colours, creating an emblematic pattern (with an ornamental effect) that experiences a concise limitation of an overall principle: the paintings would unendingly spread out into space, if their figurative nature was not determined exactly by these limits. The paintings are thus positioned in space, taken to the front or raised into space, absorbing it and at the same time resting in themselves. The fragility of the layering of colours, which are separated from each other during the creative process by means of masking, permit only slight differences in height hardly visible with the naked eye that generate another momentum of tension, implying a meshing of colour fields and shapes. This game of deception of bright, transparent and muted colours bestowing lightness and heaviness appears to be the artist's specific concern. Bettina Weiß creates a matrix variable in form and colour, which is at the same time open and aware of its experimental nature and the haptics of her working materials, as i.e. oil, acrylic paint, or carrier materials like filling compound (often coloured), in appreciation of the base material wood with its grains, warpings and cracks. Despite their compositional dynamics her works are characterized by a statuesque and contemplative calm emanating from them. Forms and colours in every work are elaborated and find their balance in the multi-faceted creative process; every new application of colour is considered in accordance with the already existing colours and structures, created by adding nuanced and refined local colours, or the wood ground that keeps shining through.

Thus, iconic paintings come into existence which, once detected, will form a lasting impression, even if they are non-representational, combining basic geometric forms like circle, triangle and square in one image pattern.

Semjon H. N. Semjon, December 2015