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Erik Schmidt

Bogged Down

In his first solo exhibition in Gallery Krinzinger, Erik Schmidt (*1968) is presenting his new film *Bogged Down* alongside paintings from a new series of works that formally continue his expressive style thereby introducing a new figurative subject. While Schmidt's painterly position is always geared to colour and structure, his cinematic works focus mainly on performative execution. In his earlier film works Schmidt uses the performative as essential element, employing himself as the main protagonist.

His latest film *Bogged Down* (2010) focusses less on the narrative, selecting instead a sequence of situations that deal with existential topics like solitude, death, youth and illness. The account evolves solely from the images themselves interplaying with music and ambient sound.

In his paintings, Schmidt also creates images in which materiality and texture play a significant role. Schmidt deliberately diverts the process of painting onto the surface. The close relationship between his paintings and his cinematic work becomes evident through a comparison of perspective, composition and picture details. In the new works exhibited in Gallery Krinzinger, Schmidt takes on the genre of landscape painting, returning to figurative art after a period of producing more abstract works.

The themes, ostensibly representative subjects, are transposed in meaning by a shifted rendering of the image details. Questions like death, emptiness, melancholy and self-portrayal arise from the contrast between the overlapping disciplines of painting.

Erik Schmidt was born 1968 in Herford/Germany and lives and works in Berlin. Solo exhibitions: 2010: „Bogged Down“ Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna; „Perusing the Scenery“, Praz-Delavallade, Paris; 2009: „Right to Roam“, Galeria Soledad Lorenzo, Madrid; 2008: „As above so below“, Elizabeth Dee, New York; „Working the landscape“, Galerie carlierlgebauer, Berlin; 2007: „Hunting Grounds“, Museum Marta Herford, Herford; 2006: „Hunting Grounds“, Galerie carlierlgebauer, Berlin; „Nach der Jagd ist vor der Jagd“, Galerie Praz-Delavallade, Paris; 2005: „Der schönste Jäger von Deutschland“, Galerie carlierlgebauer, Berlin; 2004: „Jagdfieber ohne Nachsichtgerät“, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam; 2003: „Suitwatcher's Anonymous“, Galerie carlierlgebauer, Berlin; 2002: Kunst Zürich 2002, solo presentation for the Galerie carlierlgebauer, Zürich; 2001: „Models Parking Cars“, Galerie Gebauer, Berlin; 1999: „Einzel Gruppe Berlin“, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, project in collaboration with Corinna Weidner, Berlin; 1998: „I love my hair“, Ideen Shop, Berlin; „I love my hair“, Galerie 13, Hamburg.