

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press release

Tillman Kaiser

Im Dom

September 13 – November 10, 2019

Hauptraum

Press conference: Thursday, September 12, 2019, 10 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7 p.m.

In his exhibition *Im Dom* in the Secession's main gallery, Tillman Kaiser presents mostly new large-format pictures and sculptures.

As the artist sees it, a church or cathedral is not a functional structure; synthesizing diverse arts—architecture, sculpture, and painting—it possesses a beauty that is an end in itself. With a nod to the Kantian idea of disinterested pleasure, Kaiser argues that all art—his, certainly—aspires to beauty in this sense. Made in the studio, his work does not depend on the interaction with a specific exhibition site. And yet the half-laconic, half-ironic title he has chosen for his show, which translates as *In the Cathedral*, transplants us into an ecclesiastical space and hints at the possibility of a spiritual experience. It is a deft stratagem, drawing a connection between the Secession—conceived at the dawn of modernism as a total work of art and “temple” of beauty—and his own oeuvre while questioning the institution's status and signaling critical distance.

Kaiser's pictures combine photography with painting and graphic art. Photographs recorded with a homemade camera obscura as well as cyanotypes and photograms made without the use of a camera are the material he subsequently reworks in a painterly process. When defects such as stray light in the camera occur, Kaiser embraces them as traces of contingency and an index of his creative process. An artist who is keen to point out that he should not be identified with what he does, he notes that wit and humor are key elements in his work.

Each photo from the pinhole camera with the impressive image size of 100 x 75 cm consists of several sheets of photographic paper, and his pictures, usually in large formats, are in turn composed of multiple photographs pasted onto the canvas. The basis of his works, then, is always already a collage, synthesizing different motifs as well as the iteration and variation of a single motif on one surface and lending the pictures a distinctive rhythm and complexity.

He combines techniques that require preparation and planning and do not generally lend themselves to impromptu expression with painting, a medium in which gesture and the artist's physical interaction with the canvas read as signals of immediacy, spontaneity, and expressiveness. Kaiser toys with this

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ambiguity on several levels, making his works scenes of a clash between contingency and planning, conception and improvisation. The artist's emphatic distrust of simple explanations and inexhaustible delight in the enormous variety of the visible world recognizably informs his work.

Eyes, ritual masks, a model of a church, and other references from the artist's studio are central motifs in his work, making frequent appearances in both pictures and sculptures. Most recently, the two genres seem to be coalescing: elements from the sculptures, cobbled together out of a variety of materials, figure in the pictures as photographic images; the sculptures, in turn quote structures and motifs from the pictures.

Folding and geometric forms as well as the use of straightforward and "poor" materials are the defining characteristics of Kaiser's sculptures, objects, and three-dimensional wall pieces. Their sometimes futuristic shapes are also reminiscences of the avant-gardes and early modernism. The reference to avant-gardistic tendencies of the twentieth century is underscored by the artist's choice of materials: forms folded out of cardboard and paper, sometimes in conjunction with found and repurposed everyday items, lend his objects the ephemeral aspect of models or prototypes. Just as crystalline patterns in prismatic repetition often constitute the compositional scaffolds of the paintings, the sculptures are constructed from reiterated geometric forms.

Patterns generated by the repetition and perspectival distortion of simple graphic elements sprawl over Kaiser's canvases and tie the different elements of his compositions together. In an enormous mural produced on site, he isolates this design principle and demonstrates the fascinating effect of what is at bottom a simple but striking technique.

Tillman Kaiser was born in Graz in 1972 and lives and works in Vienna.

The exhibition by Tillman Kaiser is mainly sponsored by Arbeiterkammer Wien.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.

Curator: Bettina Spörr

Edition

Tillman Kaiser. *DAS GLEICHE, NUR ANDERS*, 2019

Material: SUMO, 3mm; Munken Polar, 170 g

Offset printing, hand-bound

Limited edition of 150 pieces (plus 5 AP)

Numbered and signed

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Curators' guided tour

Friday, September 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Curators Bettina Spörr, Annette Südbeck and Jeanette Pacher give a tour through the exhibitions by Tillman Kaiser, Alexandra Bircken and Korakrit Arunanondchai.

Press contact

Karin Jaschke
T. +43 1 587 53 07-10
E-Mail: presse@secession.at

Press images

Installation views are available for download at www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell

Exhibitions

Hauptraum
Galerie
Grafisches Kabinett

Tillman Kaiser. *Im Dom*
Alexandra Bircken. *Unruhe*
Korakrit Arunanondchai

Exhibition dates

September 13 – November 10, 2019

Edition

Tillman Kaiser, *DAS GLEICHE, NUR ANDERS*, 2019,
Limited edition of 150 pieces (plus 5 AP), € 250,-

Artist's books

Alexandra Bircken. *1986*, 216 pages, € 26,40
Korakrit Arunanondchai, 120 pages, € 26,40

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Permanent Presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Admission

Adults € 9,50
Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

Curator's guided tour

Friday, September 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Guided tours

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. in English and 2 p.m. in German
€ 3,- per person plus admission (without registration)

Art Information

Every Saturday, 1 – 2 p.m.
(while exhibitions of contemporary art are on view), free of charge

Press contact

Karin Jaschke
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Press images

download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell>

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Main sponsor



Sponsoring VALUE

The exhibition by Tillman Kaiser is mainly sponsored by Arbeiterkammer Wien.



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Biografie / Biography Tillman Kaiser

Tillman Kaiser, 1972 geboren in / born in Graz (Austria), lebt und arbeitet in / lives and works in Vienna.

Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl) / Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *NON È ANCORA ILLEGALE*, Galerie Emanuel Layr, Rom / Rome
- 2017 Polansky Gallery, Prag / Prague
- 2016 *Screaming Swifts*, Mitchell Albus Gallery, New York
Tillman Kaiser, Museo Canonica, Villa Borghese, Rom / Rome
Invite The Light, Galerie Emanuel Layr, Wien / Vienna
- 2013 *Augenphantom & Kugelsucher*, Intervention, Josephinum, Wien / Vienna
Hermetische Melancholie III, Kunsthalle Krems Factory, Krems
Hermetische Melancholie II, Galerie Emanuel Layr, Wien / Vienna
- 2012 *Hermetische Melancholie I*, LWZ, Wien / Vienna
The Truth and the Abstract Blues, Wilkinson Gallery, London
- 2011 *Für Kinder und Kenner*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2010 *Christi Geburt*, Intervention, Belvedere, Wien / Vienna
- 2009 *Hallucination Engine*, Wilkinson Gallery, London
- 2008 *Don't Worry About The Motion On The Ocean*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
LISTE 08, Basel
- 2007 *Desert Cooler*, Neue Galerie Graz, Projektraum, Graz

Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) / Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 *Sternenpassage*, Foto Wien, Museumsquartier, Wien / Vienna
- 2018 *Strange Attractors*, Kerry Schuss, New York
- 2017 *Wild West*, Austrian Cultural Forum, New York
Specular Windows – Reflections on the Self and the Wider World, 21er Haus, Wien / Vienna
- 2016 *Über die Unmöglichkeit des Seins*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Wien / Vienna
- 2015 *The Description of a New World, Called the Blazing-World*, Mitchell Albus Gallery, New York
- 2014 *The Degeneration Of Painting*, Fondazione 107, Turin / Torino
Megarave – Metarave, WallRiss Kunstraum and Kunsthau Langenthal, Fribourg
Post-Op. Perceptual Gone Painterly. 1958-2014, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris
Franz Graf, Siehe was Dich sieht, 21er Haus, Wien / Vienna
- 2012 *Utopie GESAMTKUNSTWERK*, 21er Haus, Wien / Vienna
- 2011 *All That Is Unseen*, Allan Nederpelt, New York
- 2010 *14th Vilnius Painting Triennial*, False Recognition, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius
Lebt und arbeitet in Wien III, Kunsthalle Wien, Wien / Vienna
- 2009 *Artists Insight: Tillman Kaiser*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
- 2008 *UNREAL: ALTERED PERSPECTIVES IN PAINTING*, The Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2007 Kunstverein Medienturm, Graz

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Werkliste / List of works Tillman Kaiser

Wenn nicht anders angegeben / If not stated otherwise:
Courtesy der Künstler / the artist und / and Galerie Emanuel Layr Wien/Rom

Rechte Seite, vorne / Right side, in the front

1	2	3
4	5	

1

Nachthimmel, 2018
Eitempera und Cyanotypie auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Egg tempera and cyanotype on paper on canvas
200 x 300 cm

2

Luftballons, 2018
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography on paper on canvas
200 x 150 cm
Privatsammlung Wien / Private collection, Vienna

3

More Blood, 2018
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
200 x 300 cm

4

Das Bett des Harpuniers, 2018
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
200 x 300 cm
Privatsammlung Wien / Private collection, Vienna

5

Antilopenleber, 2018
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
200 x 300 cm

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Rechte Seite, hinten / Right side, in the back

Ohne Titel / Untitled, 2019
Cyanotypie und Acryl auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Cyanotype and acrylic paint on paper on canvas
200 x 150 cm

Ohne Titel / Untitled, 2019
Cyanotypie und Acryl auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Cyanotype and acrylic paint on paper on canvas
200 x 150 cm

Linke Seite, vorne, von links nach rechts / Left side, in the front, from left to right

Mithilfe der Fantasie deutlicher leben, 2019
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
400 x 150 cm

Im Dom, 2019
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
400 x 150 cm

Dem Auge fern, dem Herzen nah, 2019
Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie und Eitempera auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Black-and-white photography and egg tempera on paper on canvas
400 x 150 cm

Linke Wand, hinten / left wall, in the back

80/81, 2017
Fotogramm und Acryl auf Papier auf Leinwand /
Photogram and acrylic paint on paper on canvas
200 x 300 cm
Courtesy der Künstler / the artist

Skulpturen / Sculptures

Kassettenständer, 2019
Bronze
182,5 x 50 x 50 cm

Slave, 2011
Karton, Eisen, Holz /
card board, iron, wood
300 x 70 x 70 cm

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Sweet Chariot, 2019

Bewehrungsseisen, Eisen, Skulptur von Stano Filko /
Concrete reinforcement rod, iron, sculpture by Stano Filko
400 x 150 x 150 cm

Dom, 2019

Mixed media
400 x 130 x 100 cm

Sessel, 2019

Mixed media
200 x 70 x 70 cm

Eingang, links / Entrance, to the left

Black Magic

Holzplatte / Wood panel
206 x 90,3 x 0,6 cm