

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press Release - January 2013

MARLON WOBST - *Brand*

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY takes pleasure in announcing the second solo exhibition at the gallery by Berlin-based artist Marlon Wobst (born in 1980 in Wiesbaden, Germany).

The six large paintings selected for this show represent one of the lines of artistic research developed by the painter - in which sketched objects become a pretext for a colouristic composition. Landscapes and human bodies are Wobst's preferred subjects. Despite handling classic elements (oil, canvas, landscape, portrait) his style is unmistakable. Creamy, sensual textures of thick strokes and multi-layered colours, together with unexpected colour contrasts and stylised or grotesque human forms are the distinctive features in Wobst's work.

The first canvas we come across entering the exhibition is *Selbstportrait* from 2012, its subject is a human figure moving. In this work, like in *Brand* (2012), an instant-effect is achieved through a non-realistic use of unusual colours for the background, which precludes the possibility of time and space contextualization and redirects our attention and enjoyment to colour effects and contrasts.

A painted frame frequently appears in Wobst's works (*Selbstportrait*, *Brand*, *Ritt*): this element fixes the image in this specific time and space instead of opening questions about what was before or behind it. The frame is triple in *Ritt* (2012), where three film-stills form a sequence on an earth-coloured background.

Wobst's humans often have deformed bodies and unnatural proportions. His humans with unlikely complexions look more like puppets, without eyes or mouth, not even hair, bidimensional, round headed, with squared bodies.

They are out of proportion even when they are athletes: *Player* (2012) presents an awkward basketball player surrounded by vivid purple air, a deformed shadow chasing him. The not particularly sporty-looking pole-vaulter, *Stabhochspringer* (2012) seems to fall upside down out of the canvas after bouncing against the wall.

Text: Olga Boiocchi

The exhibition *Brand* opens at Schwarz Contemporary on February 1, and will run through March 2, 2013. The opening reception will be on Thursday, 31st January 2013, from 6 to 8 pm.

For further information, please contact the gallery: mail@schwarz-contemporary.com