

P R E S S R E L E A S E

- ***Camill Leberer. From the Echo Chamber***
- ***Colours in a Square. Works from the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection***

14 May to 17 September 2023***Camill Leberer. From the Echo Chamber***

The sculptor Camill Leberer is a paradigm shifter whose work broadly recalls painting and yet, in its various casts, is always the result of reflections on the way light and space are perceived. What distinguishes his work is his principle use of elementary, constructive design methods, without however working every permutation through to the end. Instead, Leberer combines rational methodology with gestural, painterly and light-reflecting means to create the dynamic visual systems that make his work so unmistakable. As a result, his sculptures, paintings and wall pieces in metal, glass and paint create a wonderfully ambivalent effect: they appear simultaneously rational yet improvised, balanced yet expressive, material yet immaterial, and unapproachable yet sensual and atmospheric. And viewers also receive a central role here: they are encouraged to move in front of these works, to walk around and finally to immerse themselves in an “imaginary action space” (Camill Leberer).

Camill Leberer has for many years been represented by the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection, which includes a number of his works. The exhibition, which is the result of close collaboration with the artist, places special emphasis on works that underline the geometric, rational aspect of his practice. A cubic “housing” made of glass, the shape of the square in his metal pictures, and a serial presentation of coloured sheets of sandpaper are all examples of this. The exhibition is complemented by a selection of works that present Leberer as also a draughtsman, photographer and poet.

Colours in a Square. Works from the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection

This exhibition focuses on the topic of colour and the associated ways in which colours and elementary forms interact. On display are around 60 geometric abstract paintings, visual objects, and sculptures from the 1940s to the present day. They have been made by 34 artists from 10 different European countries.

Colour is one of the foremost means of artistic expression. And as is clearly demonstrated by the works presented here from the collection, this is especially true of non-representational art, in which colour is usually free of any symbolic value and stands entirely for itself.

But does the colour concept behind constructive-concrete works strictly obey its own intrinsic logic, as might be expected from art of this kind? Or are colours also sometimes employed in the broad field of geometric abstraction in a spontaneous, intuitive manner that ignores predefined rules?

The exhibition shows that both are possible. In addition to works in which colours and forms interact on a rational basis, others are on view that playfully break with the strict ideals of concrete systems of order, and that combine a grammar of geometric forms with idiosyncratic colour experiments. Some paintings above all impress the beholder by strong colour contrasts that create a visual sense of vibration in the picture surface. Others are radically monochrome - without any hint of monotony. And last but not least, the exhibits also include works made in part from glass or acrylic glass, which first unfold the true radiance of their colours in and through the ambient light.

A variant of the exhibition *Colours in a Square* has been on view at the Fondazione Marcello Morandini in Varese (IT) until 16 April 2023.

With works by Yaacov Agam, Kirstin Arndt, Werner Bauer, Max Bill, Bob Bonies, Hellmut Bruch, Geneviève Claisse, Rita Ernst, Hans Jörg Glattfelder, Ingo Glass, Camille Graeser, Gottfried Honegger, Imi Knoebel, Matti Kujasalo, Jim Lambie, Camill Leberer, Thomas Lenk, Richard Paul Lohse, Dóra Maurer, Vera Molnar, François Morellet, Aurélie Nemours, Miriam Prantl, Nelly Rudin, Diet Sayler, Reiner Seliger, Anton Stankowski, Klaus Staudt, Günther Uecker, Grazia Varisco, Peter Weber, Martin Willing, Shizuko Yoshikawa, and Beat Zoderer

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