

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster berlin

Christian August | Christian Bär | Bram Braam | Alex Feuerstein | Nina Röder | Finja Sander | Gary Schlingheider |

Maria Schumacher

All I Want 9 December 2022 – 14 January 2023

Opening Friday, 9 December 2022, 6 – 9 pm

In times of turbo-capitalism, crises, existential fears, Amazon wishlists and overcrowded department stores, it might be good to pause for a moment and soberly ask yourself *what is good for me?* instead of *what do I want?* or *what do I need?* After all, there is the possibility of surprising oneself in the process.

The works in the media of painting, photography and sculpture shown in the group exhibition *All I Want* do not aim to provide answers – on the contrary, one will search in vain for a clear offer of reception. Nevertheless, each of the works on display provides impulses, perspectives and possible approaches in its own way to deal with such fundamental question – or the possibility to escape the worries of our complex present for a moment.

Christian August's abstractly expressive colour landscapes move in an interplay of intuitively and quickly applied colour gradients and graphic gestures. His intense worlds of colour glow and bubble, diffuse, organic and alternating between loud and quiet, rough and smooth on the surface of the picture and seem so ethereal that one wants to reach into the picture to try out where the colour haze ends and the material begins.

For digital natives of the first hour, **Christian Bär's** paintings are likely to evoke a nostalgic longing. Especially those in which strokes – or more precisely: certain strokes – can be seen that are immediately reminiscent of early computer graphics programmes such as Microsoft Paint. His works clearly show, technically and aesthetically, the intermediary entanglements of our contemporary culture, in which the former mental and actual separation of digital and public spaces, of the immaterial and the material has become obsolete – rather, everything is inextricably linked. (Annekathrin Kohout)

While **Alex Feuerstein's** latest small-format work *Mond #1* combines art historical references and contemporary perspectives on (abstract) landscape painting in an earthy colour palette, **Bram Braam**, who draws inspiration from the raw environment of Berlin, shows his personal view of urban landscapes and façade fragments in *Berlin Hieroglyphs #3*, which open up a narrative about the rapid and unchecked development of the city.

Withered houseplants as a symbol of everyday failure within one's own four walls. We look sadly down on the plants we have just bought when they wither away days later, whether due to lack of time or lack of care. **Finja Sander** has taken on this trivial event in her work cycle *Einfriedung*. During a one-week performance in spring this year, Sander took care of numerous withered plants that she had previously collected from various households in Berlin. These were finally laid out and archived in a laboratory designed by her. Three large-format photographic works show selected specimens, bedded on deep blue velour – one of which will be on show in the exhibition. Sander provokes an idealisation, almost a fetishisation of failure and disturbs the eternal cycle of thoughtless and therefore often frustrating consumption for its own sake.

Nina Röder is not only a sensitive observer of her environment, for whom reflected conceptions and technical perfection in execution are important, but also familiar with theatrical means, which enter into her art in the form of concocted settings and performative strategies. A central point of her artistic-worldly reflection is the alienation of modern individuals from their natural preconditions and their social circumstances as well as its counterpart: the longing for home and security. (Dr. Kai Uwe Schierz)

At first, we perceive **Maria Schumacher**'s painting *Tender Nights* as a sea of chaotic-looking lines, until a closer look reveals an ordered structure. The repeating lines sometimes join together to form a grid, sometimes they are crossed by other lines. Forms, signs, symbols emerge that take up the entire canvas space. The forms appear like archaic artefacts with universalistic references. Sometimes they seem familiar, sometimes alien. The forms and signs that Schumacher depicts here can have different effects depending on how they are understood and are above all multiperspective. Schumacher does not specify how her works are to be read, she leaves them open and thus also open to interpretation. (Defne Kizilöz)

Abstract, geometric and jet black, **Gary Schlingheider**'s *MULTI PART PIECES SMALL BLACK* stretches across the centre of the gallery space. Schlingheider usually works in large formats, with powerful opaque colours and geometric, reduced bodies. With a reference to art historical models such as the Minimalists, Ellsworth Kelly or Frank Stella, he explores the boundaries between painting and sculpture anew.

Biographies

Christian August (*1977 in Halle (Saale), Germany) studied at the Burg Giebichtstein Kunsthochschule Halle as a student of Gerhard Schwarz. August lives and works in Berlin.

Christian Bär (*1989 in Stuttgart, lives and works in Leipzig) studied at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig with Prof. Ingo Meller from 2010 – 2015. He received his diploma with distinction in 2015.

Bram Braam (*1980 in Sittard, Netherlands) studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Den Bosch, Netherlands. Bram Braam is a Mondriaan Fonds scholarship holder and lives in Berlin.

Alex Feuerstein (*1981 in Heidelberg, Germany) lives and works in Karlsruhe. He completed his studies in painting in 2013 at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe as a master student with Prof. Erwin Gross.

Nina Röder (*1983 in Neuendettelsau, Germany) lives and works in Berlin and Hamburg. She studied 2006 – 2009 Media Art and Design with a focus on photography at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. Since 2017, she has been a professor of photography at the European University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg. In addition to her artistic work, Röder completed a doctorate in the field of artistic research.

Finja Sander (*1996 in Hildesheim) chooses the medium of performance as a recurring constant in her work. Her performances have been shown at C/O Berlin (2019), Museum für Fotografie, Berlin (2021), and Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2021), among others. Fina Sander lives and works in Berlin and completed her master's degree in Fine Arts in 2022 at the UdK Berlin with Prof. Valérie Favre.

Gary Schlingheider (*1983 in Detmold, Germany) completed his studies at the UdK Berlin as a master student of Prof. Christine Streuli in 2017. He lives and works in Berlin and Ostwestfalen-Lippe.

Maria Schumacher (*1983 in Bucharest, Romania) completed her diploma studies at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig, class of Heribert C. Ottersbach and class of Neo Rauch in 2011. Maria Schumacher lives and works in Leipzig.

For further information, please contact Miriam Schwarz: miriam@galerieburster.com

Opening hours: Wednesday – Friday 12 – 6 pm & Saturday 12 – 4 pm and by appointment

Winter break: 18 December 2022 – 9 January 2023