

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster karlsruhe

Nina Laaf | *eigentlich*

3 – 25 March 2023

Opening

Friday, 3 March 2023, 6 – 9 pm

We are pleased to present Nina Laaf's first solo show *eigentlich* at galerie burster Karlsruhe.

In her sculptural works, Nina Laaf deals with strategies of irritation, alienation, as well as context shifting, and investigates material textures and their limits. Her latest works are characterised by a play between presence and absence and the question of what constitutes the actual, the essential, the original in colour and form.

As in her latest sculpture *Paravent*, which forms the central element of the exhibition. Similar to a room divider, it is composed of three movably connected aluminum elements lacquered in different colours. An expansive, large-format work that both places the viewer's own body in relation to the sculpture and defines new spaces. Negative spaces within the composition were consciously considered and are an autonomous part of the sculptural setting. While initial associations oscillate between a spatial composition that refers to its direct surroundings and a primarily aesthetic reception, the sculpture questions visual habits and refers in its shaping to the interplay of presence and absence, negative and positive.

The play with material, empty spaces as well as the question of the meaning of a negative space within a composition is also evident in *gravity – depends on you*, an installation hanging from the ceiling made of interlinked, highly abstracted outlines of steel. Whether read as a negative or a positive, the gaze automatically seeks a representational quality in it, a form invested with meaning.

Just as *das Eigentliche* (the actual) may mean something different for everyone – sometimes *eigentlich* describes an intention that has already been (almost) discarded – Nina Laaf's abstracted material compositions and juxtapositions can be read individually and become tangible and above all approachable for us.

Nina Laaf (*1977 in Hilden, Germany) studied at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe from 2010 to 2017 with Prof. Silvia Bächli, Prof. John Bock and Prof. Ulla von Brandenburg and completed her master studies with Prof. Harald Klingelhöller. In 2018, the artist received the Hanna Nagel Prize Karlsruhe and was a scholarship holder at the Cité Internationale Des Arts Paris in 2019. Nina Laaf lives and works in Karlsruhe.

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

Opening hours: Wednesday – Friday 2 – 6 pm | Saturday 12 – 3 pm and by appointment

