

Junggeun OH

zwischenräume interspaces

galerie son

18 May – 13 July 2013

EXHIBITION OPENING on Saturday the 18th of May 2013 at 7pm



Zwischenräume Böttcherstraße Bremen | Interspaces Böttcherstraße Bremen 91 x 284cm oil on canvas 2013

The work of Junggeun Oh is centred around the unusual balance between two surfaces.

Junggeun Oh has now been working for several years in Berlin, taking the silhouette of buildings against the sky from his own subjective viewpoint in different quarters and so creating a very personal map of this town. In countless variations, he goes in pursuit of a shape, which he might have found in urban reality, but which he uses to create the most abstract border dividing colour areas from each other. He leaves the viewer marveling at the strange balance between the two, where none overweighs the other, where there is no foreground and background but rather plain surface, and perception swings between the two- and tridimensional.

Oh uses strong colours with a deep glow and without relation to the motive. He especially favours the colour red, which is shown in endless tonalities, from very bright to a dark brownish hue. Black is also a favorite of his, with a texture resembling charcoal or lacquer. The contrast between the areas in his pictures might be also between very smooth and very rough areas formed by a lot of small brushstrokes.

The continuous repetition of gestures and motives and the erasing of the individual handwriting give Oh's work a meditative trait. It goes way beyond the reflection on the individual defining himself in the borders and bounds of architecture and society, and has a stern mathematical beauty about it. The artist goes in pursuit of this hidden beauty. It is a central element in all his urban skylines.

In his latest works, surfaces are cut out, and canvas contrasts with fragile cardboard, with a small interstice between the two. The artist leaves the square frame, choosing unusual contours also for the outer border of his pictures. Oh's paintings have a special hermetic elegance about them, they become flat sculptures.

Verena ALVES-RICHTER