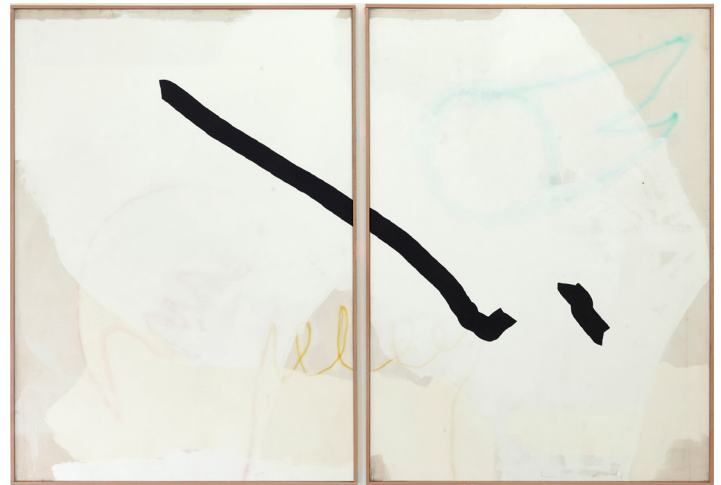


Malte Zenses
 New Positions
 Art Cologne 2016

With ironic nonchalance, Malte Zenses' (DE 1987) paintings and sculptures expand the vocabulary of abstract painting and new realism by pointedly integrating the zeitgeist of his generation through autobiographical fragments. Letterings and characters play with the graffiti scene's idea of leaving quick notes or tags, but they are precisely placed and become ciphers of autobiographic experiences lying behind what is visible. What appear as abstract lines in works such as "way to fast for a star" are in fact Malte Zenses' travel routes, the "drawings" of which he samples from Googlemaps. In the diptych "way to fast for a star", the line corresponds with his trip from New York to the Catskill Mountains. The four-part work "Sie trank aus dem Millstätter See" ["She Drank from the Millstätter Lake"] superimposes the encoded sign language of North American tramps with Malte Zense's autobiographical index. The signs of the work thus bring together phrases such as "things are getting better", "Wenn Liebe käme" ["If love would arrive"], "trust him/her" or "beautiful", and can simultaneously be read as a fragmented portrayal. Other elements such as the applied paper napkins of the painting "My Friend" are also ciphers of autobiographical experiences. The diptych "Your friend #2" integrates a white towel as a painting ground, on which "my friend" can be read in Arabic writing, with the cartoon character Felix The Cat. The humorous ease of the depiction encodes the loss of youthful innocence in the



way to fast for a star, 2015
 oil and gouache on canvas
 overall dimension approx. 141 x 210 cm

entanglements of world politics. Since 1948, Felix The Cat has been continuously used by the US Army as a symbol for various military maneuvers. The painting "Fliehender Tisch und Fatale Architektur" ["Fleeing Table and Fatal Architecture"] is an encoded homage to his parental home, and "Das Auge der Katze" ["The Eye of the Cat"] or "Die Sanfte" ["The Soft One"] unsuspectingly leads the viewer to the psychological depths of Georges Bataille's "Story of the Eye". Malte Zenses' sculptures continue this quite natural dissolution of familiar formal boundaries; they can be described from several perspectives as a "dance around one's center", both in a personal respect and in regard to the identity as an artist. The neon lettering "#gal" displays a hashtag from the Ragga dance scene that uses "gal" as a playful word, vacillating between respect and snideness, for a "girl" who can dance well. In a complex manner, Malte Zenses' works play with the déjà vu of familiar things and allow the view to "enter the image" via formal and autobiographic codifications. Malte Zense's works become secret friends of the viewer individually forming a message.



your friend #2, 2015
 varnish and spraypaint on canvas
 95 x 130 cm

Biographical Note:

Malte Zenses (DE 1987) lives in Frankfurt and Cologne. Since 2014 he has been studying at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf under Andreas Schulze. He previously studied at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach under Wolfgang Luy from 2010 to 2013. Since the beginning of his studies, Malte Zenses has exhibited in projects in Cologne, Hamburg, Lucerne, Los Angeles, Nuremberg, and New York.

Kadel Willborn

Birkenstraße 3

D-40233 Düsseldorf

info@kadel-willborn.de

www.kadel-willborn.de



Sie trank Wasser aus dem Millstätter See, 2015
varnish and spraypaint on canvas,
200 × 405 cm
