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Benedikt Hipp  
Von Tür nach Thule  
2/27—4/30/2011

The exhibition “Von Tür nach Thule” describes the possibility of a path leading away from a place defined by space and time towards an uncharted distance. “Thule” is an island that was first mentioned in the records of the geographer Pytheas in 325 BC, yet it cannot be reliably positioned based on current geographical knowledge. While the protagonists in Benedikt Hipp’s preceding series of fragmentary “spatial stages” still resembled humans, in his new series, “Von Tür nach Thule”, they increasingly become ephemeral beings alluding to another world. Some of these beings merge manlike traits in their semblance and appear as a transition to a different image of man, the “model experiment of a renewal”. At the centre of all paintings, one now finds a subject whose amorphous shape bears the possibility of innumerable appearances and can itself turn into architectural space. The individual element is repeatedly set in new relations to the fragmentarily defined surroundings; it is positioned and then dissolved again. An indication of the relationship between individual and whole is also given by the titles of the drawings and paintings, e.g., “The Audience (Wunderhall)”, “Paraleut” or “gekritztes Geschiebe”. The composition and painting technique seem to open the paintings to the inside, the viewer “enters” into new territory. This contemplative imagination of possible world creations within the paintings is turned to the outside by means of real architectural interventions in the exhibition space. The sculptures positioned in it form a real stage and also encompass the viewer. The interventions in the exhibition space are reminiscent of abstract stage staffages and in a fragmentary way conceal the original architecture or even do away with its actual function, like the blocked main door of the gallery. Here, Benedikt Hipp’s sculptures are actual corporeal excerpts of his painted immersed image worlds. A “peculiar” vis-à-vis, such as the sculpture “Bohrkern mit Silberscheibe (Drill Core with Silver Disc)”, in which

the history of world creation manifests itself as a geological witness and continues the quest for Thule inside the earth.

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Benedikt Hipp (\*1977) lives and works in Munich. In 2010 his works were on view in a solo show at the Bielefelder Kunstverein and in 2009 at Art Statements / Art Basel. In 2011 he will present a larger group of works in the exhibition “Secret Societies” at Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt and the CPAC – Museum of Contemporary Art in Bordeaux. The gallery will also feature Benedikt Hipp with a solo presentation at OPEN SPACE / Art Cologne.



Bohrkern mit Silberscheibe, 2011  
painted wood, metal, carrot  
84 x 180 x 81 cm

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