



Jakob Gasteiger „NEW WORKS“

Opening: 02.12.2006

Duration: 02.12.2006 – 15.02.2007

The Vienna based artist Jakob **Gasteiger** represents a particular, not at all austrian position in contemporary austrian art: his work is determined by strong formal precision, unemotional headstrong distance from any genial attitude, the concentration on the working process itself, serialization, all marked by the constant examination of boundaries between sculpture and painting. There are also new expressive moments in Gasteigers combed paintings attracting the observers attention: expressive and pictorial emotions appear under the minimalist coloured surface achieved by applying acrylic on the canvas and combing horizontal and vertical ridges into it. While the emphasis in his work was in the relations between the combed surface structure and the smoothly applied coloured skin till now Gasteiger moves on in his current works, which incorporate the colourfull expression directly in the acrylic ground, creating surfaces which presents the tension between almost baroque colours which are strictly geometrically combed revealing new exciting aspects of his work.

Due to the similarities in their composing principles, Gasteigers work is appreciated by numerous excellent contemporary composers (from Morton Feldman, Beat Furrer, Helmut Lachenmann up to Galina Ustvolskaya) forming an appropriate, sensitive cover for their sound storage media: the slightly modulated repetition of an infinite „tender touch“, constant packing and sudden stop, ecstatic fire breaking through the surface, all according to the composition rythm of the comb.

Gasteiger keeps on blurring the boundaries between sculpture and painting: while his paintings meet some of the conventions of what makes a painting – a rectangular canvas which is hung up on a wall – the treatment with the comb-like instrument supports the sculptural character, leaves it slightly dominant. The constant examination of boundaries between sculpture and painting is reflected in the colouring of his work: the monochrome ones present the sculptural intent of the artist meanwhile the coloured ones are evidence of the pictorial conceptual formulation.

Colour and light are another central moments in Gasteigers work. Some of the acrylic works are coloured using brilliant varnish, others are left uncoloured. The interaction with light leads to a diverse interpretation of the coloured and uncoloured tableaux – the varnished ones reflect the light that flows on the combed ridges, the pure acrylic works absorb the light totally and show an edgeless reliefstructure.

For further informations and photos of the exhibition please contact the gallery:
office@galerie-mam.com