

Press Release

LCG (KI) (CI)

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Wien/Kunst/Kultur/Ausstellungen/Lokales

Herbert Brandl in the Bank Austria Kunstforum - PICTURE

Attachments for report at

<http://presse.leisuregroup.at/kunstforum/brandl>

Header: Bank Austria Kunstforum shows first comprehensive retrospective devoted to the artist, from 26 January to 15 April 2012 =

Vienna (LCG) – In early 2012 the Bank Austria Kunstforum is presenting the very first comprehensive retrospective devoted to Herbert Brandl. It includes around 60 works produced since the early eighties, also current paintings that the artist has created especially for the exhibition.

Born in Graz in 1959 and living and working in Vienna, Herbert Brandl occupies a dominant position in modern painting. His participation in the 1992 documenta IX in Kassel, the Biennale di Venezia and his solo exhibition in the Hamburg Deichtorhallen in 2009 is a reflection of his international image and influence. Brandl's early work, dating to the early eighties, can be placed within the revival of Neo-Expressionism; since the early nineties, it has featured a more moderate painting style both in individual touch and application of the paint.

The landscape has always rated high in Brandl's work ever since his early days as an artist: in character it is descriptively impressionistic, eruptively expressionist, sensitive or destructive. Meanwhile, the images hover between abstract and objective with evocations of motif; this "not only but also", this

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marriage of opposite poles, has been particularly marked since 2000, when the artist first integrated the mountain as a concrete image into his pictorial world. Since then he has been producing abstract colour-field paintings and mighty mountainscapes alongside each other.

The current paintings are mainly characterised by an abstract overall structure in garish, excessive coloration. The colours are almost prismatically refracted and applied to the canvas in spontaneous strokes of the brush. These actions form themselves into a dramatic flood, which overwhelms the observer and drags him into the depths of the painterly cosmos.

Despite his modernity and autonomy, the artist is committed to the great tradition of painting. Affinities to the Old Masters are clearly evident, especially to Altdorfer, Titian and Rubens, although without any gesture towards quotation. They tend more to be atmospheric images from the memory, in which all figuration and narration are pushed aside. Brandl poses elemental questions to the panel picture.

Herbert Brandl's oeuvre is always a kaleidoscope of painterly action which constantly renews itself – with the permanent risk of leaving the marked terrain and staking his claim to the canvas anew every time, and with it the history of painting. Brandl sees himself in this as a mountaineer on the rock face – or as a "mountain seer" – who is exposed to the fate of falling, of being "thrown off" by the painting, or, after all, reaches the summit safe and sound (the picture with its own integrity and inner strength).

Curator: Florian Steininger

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Exhibition: Herbert Brandl

Date: 26 January to 15 April 2012

Ort: Bank Austria Kunstforum

Address: 1010 Vienna, Freyung 8

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Website: <http://www.bankaustria-kunstforum.at>

Site plan:

<http://maps.google.at/maps?oe=utf-8&client=firefox-a&ie=UTF8&q=freyung+8+wien&fb=1&gl=at&hnear=Dornbirn&cid=0,0,5117596367274441194&z=16&iwloc=A>

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The pictorial material is available for editorial purposes as copy free of charge. Further pictorial material and information can be accessed in the press section of our website at <http://www.leisuregroup.at> (End).

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