

Svätopluk Mikyta
Memory cracks**18.10.-15.11.2014****Opening Fr 17.10.2014, 6pm**

annex14 is delighted to be showing works by the Slovak artist Svätopluk Mikyta (*1973) for the first time in Zurich. Mikyta deals in his works with the conditions under which paintings are read, the stories they show, conceal or evoke. His thematic starting point is the history and culture of his country, Slovakia, and with it the history, culture and art tradition of Eastern Europe. This material forms the background of Svätopluk Mikyta's artistic work, in which he also repeatedly questions modernism and its ideological structures anew so as to keep their potential in full view for the present day. And as the exhibition title, "Memory Cracks", also indicates, this artist is interested in the collective and individual mechanisms of repression as well as the variously motivated strategies of recollection.

For some time now, Svätopluk Mikyta has also been working increasingly with themes and motifs that might be designated as common property, or that are part and parcel of the experiences that interconnect people. For the current exhibition, therefore, in addition to themes with a political context, he has selected from his huge historical image archive - which includes photographic reproductions from books as well as frames, display cases and paper - motifs that are above all directly accessible: natural phenomena, landscapes and sports, as well as flora and fauna. These source materials are reworked using different artistic processes which, like the repeated overprinting of landscapes, rob the motif of its familiarity, thus putting it into a strange hovering state. Other processes he uses are montage or collage, which facilitate unexpected associations through hard cuts or surprising contextualisations. Single, sometimes contradictory motifs are combined into a non-linear narrative that energises, transforms and radicalises the links. This also includes playing with presence and absence or with compositional interventions that in some places/cases, recall the pictorial idiom of Constructivism.

It is almost as if time is being held in suspense at the interface of past and future, as if something repressed and until then inconceivable is being made conscious in all its contradictoriness so as to challenge rigid notions over and over again.

Elisabeth Gerber

SVÄTOPLUK MIKYTA graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, studied at the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design, and awarded an DAAD grant from 2001 to 2002 at the UDK Berlin. In 2008, he won the Oskár Čepan Award for young Slovak artist, in 2009 he took part in a ISCP residency in New York, in 2011 he won the Strabag Art Award. He leads the Drawing studio at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Brno. His works are in the collections of the Slovak National Gallery, the

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Öffnungszeiten: Mi-Fr 12-18h, Sa 12-16h, oder nach Vereinbarung

Bratislava City Gallery, the Art Institute of Chicago, MUDAM Luxemburg and others institutions and private collections.