

Abraham David Christian

31.3.2012 – 12.5.2012

Opening: Fri 30.3.2012, 6 pm

annex14

Raum für aktuelle Kunst GmbH

This exhibition of works by Abraham David Christian (\*1952, DE) continues our highly respected exhibition series devoted to artists whose beginnings were around the time of the first generation of conceptual artists.

After brilliant appearances at documenta 5, and 7, Abraham David Christian then deliberately eschewed publicity. He has since been working intently on artistic ideas which he himself calls "vehicles on the road to freedom, independence". His sculptures and drawings can thus be seen as spiritual tools guiding the active viewer along the path to a very specific view of the world, of art, and of the self.

Abraham David Christian sees himself as a traveller, someone who is at home all over the world. As such, he repeatedly returns, like a nomad, to the same places: New York, Dusseldorf and Hayama, a small village in Japan. That is to say, to where he also has studios in which he can create forms for his reflections on the world in a highly concentrated atmosphere. Those reflections superimpose and intermingle his encounters with different cultures and systems, while his attention remains focused on the connections, the big issues, man's existential experiences.

This is evident when we see his works. Although the bronze sculptures, *HAYAMA*, in our exhibition are small, they seem monumental, given that their forms are derived from architectural motifs, such as rhythmic stele or columns, similar to those used in almost all cultures. The motif of the circle in the 2011 graphite drawings, *NINE*, is also elementary. Consequently, these works often seem like material compactions suspended in space and time, as the materials used, bronze, graphite or paper, stand both for duration and for all that is fleeting and fragile. The external form of the bronzes and drawings is readily understandable. And while the eye feels its way quietly along the form, the spirit becomes directly embroiled in a conversation about itself and the world, about form and content.

#### Exhibitions (a selection)

Museum Küppersmühle, Duisburg, 2010; Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, 2003; Wilhelm-Lehmbruck-Museum, Duisburg, 2000; Sprengel Museum, Hannover, 1994; Ulmer Museum, Ulm, 1989; Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, 1983; Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, 1983; documenta 7, Kassel, 1982; Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, 1978; documenta 5, Kassel, 1972

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Öffnungszeiten:  
Mi-Fr 14-18h  
Sa 12-16h  
oder nach Vereinbarung

www.annex14.com