

Bret Slater - THE STUFF WHAT DON'T GET SPOKE

2.4.-14.5.2016

Opening 1.4.2016, 6pm

Two years after the double exhibition "Bret Slater - Otis James", annex14 is delighted to be showing Bret Slater (*1987) in a representative solo exhibition.

Bret Slater links up with previous figurative and abstract painterly traditions in his search for individual solutions within an increasingly mediatised context. His affinity to pop culture is evident here, although he does not refer directly to its iconography. It is more because his paintings seem superficially bold and therefore have a direct impact on our perception. Or else because among the things he uses for his titles are lines from his favourite songs, citing his idol's name, "Skurt Cobain", or a text from a Marvel comic, "The Stuff what Don't Get Spoke".

Bret Slater's conceptual painting is in the tradition of American Minimal Art, Color Field and Hard Edge painting, both formally and aesthetically. He is involved in a kind of revision of their rhetorical tools. He focuses on the issue of new paths and possibilities for communicating with his audience. Slater manages, without becoming figurative or narrative, to develop narrative qualities out of the abstract vocabulary which then has a strong impact at the psychological level. It is difficult, if not even impossible, for viewers to be indifferent to his works. This also has to do with the haptic qualities of his painting, which lend the works, particularly the small formats, something object-like, even an almost magical presence which invites instantly to dialogue.

Bret Slater always draws on his personal experience, his individual cosmos of images, for his work, and at the same time on a reality that is conveyed in various ways and that is not just representative of his generation. He is also concerned, therefore, to define the general conditions that facilitate empathy and connectedness.

Elisabeth Gerber