

Finbar Ward – Head over Heels

31.3. – 6.3.2017

Opening: 30.3.2017, 6 pm

annex14 is delighted to be showing works by the British artist Finbar Ward (*1990) in a solo exhibition, following the double exhibition with Simon Callery.

Finbar Ward is an attentive observer when it comes to loosely piled, supported, stored or layered materials, objects and artefacts. He would seem to be fascinated by apparently provisional situations whose temporary stability has something almost performative about it. He is capable of using their aesthetic potential conceptually and with incredible lightness and precision for his artistic work. Although he mainly sees himself as a painter, it is the spatial, sculptural and architectonic qualities that stand out in his work, drawing new and challenging aspects from that tradition-steeped medium. This comprehensive notion of what painting can be also enables the artist to expand his work physically out into the room, to alter its perception through clever interventions, to transform its qualities or even make them visible in the first place.

For the exhibition at annex14, Finbar Ward decided to cover the floor with smaller works, cubes on which painting appears quasi as a plinth level, with gestural traces of colour and different materials. Here serial and minimalistic concepts are being reflected on, as well as certain formal-thematic and aesthetic considerations typical of the New British Sculpture of the early 1980s. The artist encounters the history and tradition of painting very with an open and innovative mind, but from the very start does without a figurative-narrative pictorial idiom of his own. This renunciation can be understood in a social sense as a critique of the omnipresence of media images. Finbar Ward's step backwards, which in this context means reflecting on the preconditions of a medium and plumbing its inherent potential, leads to another kind of (meta-) narrative. This emerges from the openly raised question of which possibilities are fundamental to self-reflective processes in general, be they directed at society or the individual.

Elisabeth Gerber