

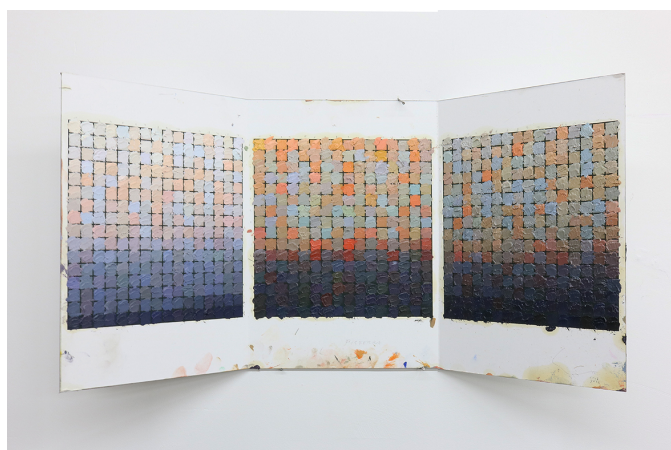
STIJN COLE

new dialogues

Cabinett **Bridget Riley**

Opening August 25, 2016

Exhibition August 25 - October 1, 2016



The Wenger Gallery opens this season with works by the Belgian artist Stijn Cole – his first solo exhibition in Switzerland.

Stijn Cole was born in 1978 and lives in Ghent and Chimay, Belgium. He chooses his media – video, sculpture, installation, art printing, painting – according to concept. He carefully researches the relation between art, beholder and environment. Apart from precisely depicting landscapes and lighting, he expresses his observations in the form of geometrically arranged colour points. In quadratic fields he places colours derived from a landscape. He quasi purifies his picture by freeing it of superfluous elements and information, and creates in the reduced form a compressed concentration of the colour array in the landscape he is depicting.

His so-called *colourscapes*, in oil on inkjet, are the result of a long procedure that generally starts by photographing a landscape in Nature and then processing the image with his own computer programme. According to the time of day when the photograph was taken, this software automatically determines the coloured squares that serve as basis for the work he then creates. All distraction by formal information is deleted from the picture, in order to enable a new and different dialogue with the landscape. Occasionally this artist uses existing landscape pictures for his *colourscapes*, such as "The Watzmann" by Caspar David Friedrich.

One of Stijn Coles' core themes is lighting and its effects. Only slightly changed lighting conditions cause colour changes that affect our perception. His pictures are somewhat like colour analyses of landscapes. Sometimes he shows a series of the same landscape at different times in different lighting, with clearly different colours according to the dates and times indicated under the picture. Sometimes he integrates colour rasters in the landscape, or presents them as an independent work completely separate from the original picture – although without first getting to know the original they cannot really take full effect.

Stijn Cole, whose way of working modernizes traditional forms of expression, bridges between romantic landscape painting and minimal art. With this exhibition, the Wenger Gallery not only enables the young artist to present his work in Switzerland, but also shows – thanks to its specialization mainly in abstract, concrete and conceptual art – what developments are taking place in classical art through the use of digital methods.