

MARK WILLIAMS on the edge

January 17 – March 14, 2015

Opening reception:

Saturday, January 17, 2015, 3 – 6 pm



Abb: Untitled 2014, oil on paper, 28 x 21,5 cm

New York artist Mark Williams arranges and composes pictorial entities that are full of fractions and graduations. He uses lines and hues to create shapes and surfaces whose power and vitality seem to emanate from a kind of incompleteness. Sharp edges have to hold their own against roundings and waveforms, lines become blurred, rich colours change into thin coatings. Some graphic elements occasionally seem to be veiled or misted over, thereby revealing another level to the observer. The various layers expand translucently to create a three-dimensional effect of depth. An inner architecture is revealed that irresistibly draws our gaze and submerges us in the picture to explore the mysteries within.

Around 2010 Mark Williams started experimenting with Yupo, a synthetic paper, using tools such as a squeegee and tape. He counteracts precise edges with blurred elements to create the interplay of orderliness and improvisational dedication that typifies his art. His pictures seem imbued with a duality of intuition and intention, between Nature and human intervention.

"on the edge" embodies a number of his works in 2014 that form a unity both artistically and technically. These horizontally oriented pictures, mostly acrylic on canvas, as well as oil and enamel on wood or paper, are each characterized by three or four colours in layers that form additional nuances. The foreground is dominated by various thick bars, interrupted by a thin vertical line on the side. This construction seems like a banner, superimposing the areas of colour in the background. It generates a viewpoint and a focus, with interruptions and steps, to reveal the inner architecture of each picture. The thin vertical lines defy gravity, so that they flow sideways. Mark Williams' titles for his works – Threshold, Mainline, Deserve, Further – influence the observer to complement the visual effect.

"on the edge" is an exhibition offering a unique opportunity: the powerful effect of Mark Williams' works can only be fully appreciated in the original.

Mark Williams, born 1950 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, lives and works in New York City. The works of Mark Williams can be found in numerous national, public and private collections, such as Wilhelm-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Hamburger Kunsthalle, The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas and Staatsgalerie Stuttgart.