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Michael van Ofen and Michal Budny at Johnen Galerie, Berlin



Johnen Galerie presents an exhibition referring to the historical figure of the German painter Anton von Werner.

Born in 1843, Anton von Werner operated as an artistic advocate of political power during the first brief period of nationalist euphoria in Germany; it was not until 1915, the year of his death, that the end of this historical development had only just begun. The painterly investigation of von Werner's work and its impact was assembled by Michael van Ofen, painter for his part, and born in 1956, during the time of the Restauration that followed the ultimate political collapse of what Anton von Werner had described in his paintings during its beginnings. After an exhaustive study of historical issues, this is the first monographically conceived exhibition with works by Michael van Ofen.



Schaubild zu "Bismarcks Pferd", 2012

Carl Röchling, Tod des Majors von Hadeln (Gravelotte, 18. August 1870), 1898, 2012

"Micha? Budny's works are characterised by a precise use of everyday materials. The translation of immaterial, personal memories or subjective emotions is a salient feature here. In this way, minimalist objects come into being and duly establish an abstract, parallel world, which, penetrating the quotidian, opens up a view of the poetic and the existential." (Vanessa Joan Müller, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf)

In his current exhibition at Johnen Galerie entitled Apollo, Micha? Budny creates a floating and drifting atmosphere. Nacreous, shimmery objects made of various layers of plain papers emanate just as much energy as to inspire a sense of volume, space and lightness in the viewer. Budny's works are not overpowering, they do not tell stories but rather decelerate perception by creating an open, energetic field where the observer does not reach solid ground.

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