

Winter Setting 2019/20

Holger Bär, Luciano Castelli, Tony Conway, Rainer Fetting, Jörn Grothkopp, Jay Mark Johnson, Lies Maculan, Sven Marquardt, Stefan Roloff, Salomé, and Patricia Waller

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■ **Holger Bär** has spent more than thirty years working on the development of computer-controlled painting machines that re-transpose digital images back into the traditional medium of oil painting. In this, he is interested both in the visual-creative process itself, as well as in the ideologies connected with certain artistic techniques, and how they have decisively shaped and changed our view of the world. He regards his latest works as a form of Neo-Pointillism. In 2008 he created a series of paintings of Berlin, titled "Prussian Blue Berlin", including many small-format images. In "Berlin 13 x 18" 234 of these form a kaleidoscope of the city. ■ From 1978 the Swiss artist **Luciano Castelli**, alongside Rainer Fetting and Salomé, actively contributed to the painting of the so-called "Neue Wilde" in Berlin. He subsequently developed new artistic approach combining painting, photography, film, music, and sculpture. The paintings of Berlin shown here represent his almost calligraphic style of black brush strokes on a white surface. ■ The American artist **Tony Conway** moves in the intersection of two- and three-dimensionality. His earlier works combined abstracted digital photographs with painting and graphite drawings on several stacked layers of plexiglas to create a holistic sculptural impression. In recent years his approach has become freer in the use of painterly elements. ■ **Rainer Fetting's** international renown is owed mainly to his paintings, which are marked by neo-expressionist painterly expression with bold gestural brushstrokes, as witnessed by his painting "Iris" of 1990. The self-portraits on round canvasses shown here tell us of profound self-reflection, the watercolor "Old Wall" links back to his paintings of the Berlin Wall before it came down, though here it has been geographically moved to where Fetting lives now. ■ The images of Berlin painter **Jörn Grothkopp** effect a decisive metamorphosis and condensation in their translation from subject matter to painting. Actual people or objects are reduced to their essential features and thus transformed into ciphers and visual similes whose smooth surfaces preserve their secrets. In his extensive series Mona Lisa he has taken the famous painting apart and put it together again in countless variations. ■ American artist **Jay Mark Johnson** uses a modified panoramic camera: by repeatedly recording the same narrow vertical slice his wide images effectively replace the traditional spatial x-axis of the image by a temporal x-axis, thus opening up entirely new and unaccustomed ways of perceiving the world. The early series *Taichi Motion Study* dissects the movements of a dancer. ■ **Lies Maculan** creates life-sized photo-sculptures, effectively blurring the line between two- and three-dimensionality. Her photo sculpture of a section of the Berlin Wall is so life-like that we can almost feel the tactile roughness of the concrete surface, while her sleeping "Dreamer" is placed horizontally on the floor. ■ Ever since his youth as a rebellious punk in East-Berlin **Sven Marquardt** has been photographing non-conformist people and unorthodox situations of Berlin's counter-culture and alternative scene. With his many travels in recent years he has extended the scope of his subject matter beyond Berlin, as in this series of black&white portraits of Australian surfers ("Stokers"). ■ **Stefan Roloff** was one of the first to recognize the artistic potential of computer technology, combining it with painting. Before moving to New York in 1983, he was active in Berlin and created a number of works that focus on the topic of the Berlin wall, as in the photo work "Das Diesseits vor dem Jenseits. Bernauer Straße." ■ **Salomé** is without doubt the most flamboyant representative of the Berlin artist group known as the "Neue Wilde". His paintings combine the exuberance of gestural brushwork and expressive color with a propensity for serial work and with a precise conceptual approach. His paintings of water lilies refer to Monet, but transform the subject matter into an almost abstract play of colors and gestural brush strokes. ■ **Patricia Waller** has been working for many years on her crochet objects. By disguising highly explosive topics in homely harmlessness she shrewdly out-tricks our viewing habits by means of the utter inappropriateness of material to subject matter. Her "Tweety" of 2008 is part of the series "Bad Luck" in which a number of well-liked characters from comics and popular culture meet an untimely demise.