

**Florin Kompatscher *Tripe de Roche* 15.9.2012 12 until 17.11.2012**

Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman Innsbruck is proud to announce its ninth solo exhibition with the artist Florin Kompatscher. We will present recent works from the years 2011 and 2012. The ambiguous title, "*Tripe de Roche – Survival Food for the Hunters and Fur Traders in the Canadian Woods*," hints not only at the aesthetic-artistic nature of the pictures shown, it is also an ironical reference to the living and working conditions of artists.

*His last years work increasingly condense into brittle, seething, earthy surfaces ... The depth of field is often blocked horizontally. Kompatscher works on these areas with positive and negative effects, by applying paint with broad brushes and then partially removing it with a spatula. This gives rise to white heightening, with further serves to intensify the drama and spatial quality in the composition.*

*... In so doing, everything is borne by a dynamically rhythmatised energy that expresses contrasts – such as velocity and stasis, drips and emulsion, brush stroke and line – in a confident, characteristic style. ... Florin Kompatscher is a traveller who journeys between the inside and the outside. In the rhythms of his densely abstract paintings, he connects his own thinking with a universal perception. A decisive factor here lies in the relationship between the subconscious and painting, which Kompatscher, born in 1960 in Southern Tyrol, negotiates in both a sensitive and visually stunning manner. Each one of his large-format paintings forms an individual intellectual and spiritual space in the infinite temporal flow.*

*... his painting doesn't actually feature narration and representation at any point. Rather, he is excavating the memory of time. ... Kompatscher's paintings dissolve the boundaries between fiction and reality, allowing the familiar to collide with the alien. ...*

(Katja Blomberg, *Himmel über der Wüste*, in: Florin Kompatscher, *Malerei/Painting 2005-2010*, Hrsg. Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, Innsbruck 2010)

*... his painting focuses thematically on the conditions of inherent possibility. Nevertheless, it is by no means self-referential. For it creates worlds, of which the colours, nuances, forms, colour combinations, layers, sections, and spatial depths are the result of decision making processes born of crises, contradiction, and possibility. It is another world, different from the real one, from which it consciously departs, thereby creating an aesthetic distance. In its original meaning deriving from the Greek, the world "critical" pertains to the idea of separation, or differentiation. Criticism is the art of demarcating the real, displacing it, and even throwing it into disarray. An example of this would be the division between the rational and irrational generative process of abstract painting. In his book *The Emancipated Spectator*, Jacques Rancière writes, "critical art is an art that knows that its political efficacy lies in its aesthetic distance". Aesthetic distance and political efficacy? Becoming aware of the contradictory and unpredictable nature of possibility in crises situations, in view of Kompatscher's paintings, may well indeed have political consequences – albeit only when one shifts the demarcations of current terminology.*

(Noemi Smolik, *Wie Malerei entsteht*, in: Florin Kompatscher, *Malerei/Painting 2005-2010*, Hrsg. Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, Innsbruck 2010)

Florin Kompatscher, born in 1960 in Bozen/Italy, lives in Berlin since 2003. 1981 to 86 Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna. Since 1986 multiple stays in Rome, Madrid, Paris, Hamburg und Cologne. International exhibitions since 1985: latest a.o. 2010 Art Forum Berlin one-man show Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, 2007 *Purple & Asphalt* Kunstforum Rottweil, Open Space Art Cologne, 2006 *Alles Andere ist wahr* Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, *Die Lange Heimat* Kunstverein Heilbronn, 2002 *dumdidldaunda* kjubh Kunstverein Köln  
Current: 7.9.-21.10.2012 **Maria Brunner Florin Kompatscher** *Der Himmel hatte Fieber* Kunstverein Offenburg-Mittelbaden

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