

SETAREH X

Bettina Marx

A SOLID INTO A LIQUID

September 7 – October 5, 2019

Friday, September 6, 2019

Opening Reception 6 pm

Hohe Straße 53, Düsseldorf

Bettina Marx shows her debut solo exhibition at SETAREH X within the frame of this year's DC Open. In addition to the presentation of large-format paintings on wood and paper and objects made of painted bark, the artist also sees the exhibition space as a part of her installation. In addition to applying paint with a brush and conventional tools, Marx also uses objects from nature or industry as printing forms, such as tree trunks, bark or plastic foil, using them like a stamp or a printing roller to apply paint to the painting surface. The resulting structures are then refined with a brush.

The title A SOLID INTO A LIQUID refers to the different aggregate states of water. A trip to snow-covered Scandinavia in the spring of the year serves as the creative starting point for this exhibition, where she first recorded her impressions in the form of watercolor and ink drawings on DIN A4. Marx uses the sketches as a diary to record silhouettes, surfaces and textures on her journey and to allow the spatial aspects of her experience to flow into her painting. A distillate of selected works from this journey is then continued for further elaboration in large or medium format, whereby natural structures and impressions of form and colour harmony are worked out closer.

In addition to time references, which she transfers into her work through her journey, plasticity also plays a special role in Marx's paintings. The place of Sweden, which found its concrete entry into this complex of works, the natural woods and industrial foils used for the printing process also become part of the works. The spatial reference and the reference to different places make her paintings contemporary witnesses of a sculptural experience. Meandering lines on the painting ground and condensing structures abstract the paths and rivers as well as the thicket of a forest.

With her painting, Marx interprets classical landscape painting or even the veduta in the context of contemporary art in a new way and transforms her experience of travel, places and the spatial context into an abstraction. Just as frozen water solidifies into snow and ice, her paintings may also be read as new aggregate states of the Swedish journey that the artist embarked on in the spring.

Bettina Marx (b. 1981) studied at the Kunstakademie Münster, where she graduated in 2009 as a master student of Cornelius Völker. She has been awarded numerous prizes, received several scholarships and has had various solo and group exhibitions. As a recipient of the NRW Fine Arts Award, she is currently represented in the group exhibition "gestalten – ein jahrhundert abstrakte kunst im westen" at the Kunsthaus NRW Kornelimünster.