

PRESSRELEASE

Engdaget Legesse

Exhibition: May 17 – June 21

Opening: May 16, 7pm

Opening hours: Thursday – Saturday, 1 – 6pm

Venue: Galerie Exler, Fahrgasse 6, 60311 Frankfurt

When the renowned Ethiopian artist Engdaget Legesse presents new works it is essential to prick up, because this event is usually preceded by an artistic leap- as lovers of his art know. The new is not only new in the sense of not yet presented to the public, but it shows new facets of the artist dealing with life in a creative way, with the art and with himself. The own, also physical metamorphosis obviously generates the force for the creation of this extraordinary works of art. The inner emptiness and artistic crisis has been an issue in the series "Empty Spaces" and "Empty Rooms" in the years 2010 to 2013, which was characterized by painting over old works in an almost brutal way. This way of work resulted in nested geometric shapes that opened ingenious perspectives. In response to this conflict-ridden, creative phase, the "new works 2014" appear. Mentally „cleaned up“, they focus on the visualization of structures by converting objects. The focus lies on things of daily use, whose ambiguity is shown by the creative re-linking and bringing them into new context. The mixed-media sculptures created since 2013 appear as three-dimensional objects of his resurrected dimensional drawings of the "Empty Rooms / Spaces" phase.

In addition to conceptual art and performance, Engdaget Legesse also remains true to painting and drawing. The experience of recent years shows that the devotion to the open, to the seemingly endlessness, which was equated with "emptiness", is again followed by a period of concentration on the essentials "the narrow ". His new large format paintings depict simple, at right angles to each other standing geometric shapes, strokes, lines, wide and thin solid color blocks. But the impression of the seemingly simple checked pattern, obscure the fact of its complexity. Initially, even the use of yellow, pink and other colored pastel shades irritate, until the works develop their surprising emotional power. Small-format sketches and drawings are part of the prelude to his paintings and examples of a performative context. Tensely one can pursue the emergence of lines, squares, patterns and other structures with the help of adhesive tapes, as if to demonstrate and make tangible to the outsider the visible and invisible boundaries experienced by the artist as self-awareness in his creative process.

Contact: Sabine Sachau, Tel: 0157 75356679

Mail: info@tana-sachau.com

Text: Dr. Kerstin Volker-Saad