

Pending

Artist: Róbert Köteles
Curator: Ioana Mandea
May 15th – June 30th 2015

Dear friends,

Anca Poterasu Gallery is delighted to invite you on Friday, May 15th, at 7pm, to the opening of the exhibition "Pending", by Timisoara-based artist Robert Köteles.

Radically counterpointing the figurative movement (which is still strongly represented, both at the local and global level), Róbert Köteles is one of those artists who revisits and persists in working with non-figurative painting, thus inscribing himself in the descent of Timisoara's artistic experiments (one of the crucial aspects in his formation).

For the artist, resorting to the means of abstraction seems to be primarily an enquiry on painting's means and possibilities, as well as a stylistic exercise and a method of visual research. Through a self-reflexive attitude, Róbert Köteles's approach discloses its instruments and deconstructs them up to their constitutive elements (the point, the line, the stroke of colour). Once decomposed, those primary signs become vectors of a complex reasoning which places spatiality at the core of the discourse.

Almost since two decades, the artist projects and re-encodes the imprints of reality through a distinctive graphic structure: a geometrical, filigreed web that divides the plane surface into a network of elementary lines and forms. Together they reconfigure space's physical data (and those of its perception), thus constructing the visual foundation for a series of interventions or visual events (signals/cues). Making use of successive focalizations and dissipations – from stellated “outgrowths” to vegetal allusions and (pseudo)molecular formations –, the artist's images question the relationship between intuition and reasoning, certainty and the unpredictable, order and disorder, visible and legible, inside a “counter-space” bearing endless possibilities of configuration/propagation.

Invested with constructive power, the networks explore the movements of space and time similarly to a map that describes the world in its absence, duplicating it within the image according to a precise analytical arrangement.

The intention of this personal viewing device is to contract – by means of a (calculated) mathematics of the forms – the (fluctuating) mathematics of time. As the artist states himself: “The instant – as an original moment – that still keeps together, indeterminately, all possibilities of the appearances that could occur, displaying its individual, both distinctive and ephemeral qualities.”

In order to create the tangible reality of an otherwise abstract concept, the artist resorts to the rhizome's specific spatial principle. Bearing neither an origin (entrance) nor a finality (exit), the arborescence of visual trajectories encloses energy paths which proliferate in nuclei, though privileging the passages. In search of time's modulations, the beholding experience becomes necessarily nomadic: following the anchor points, it gets lost in cavities, overflies the interstices and finally rests in an essential abeyance proper to the plural nature of “being here” and “being, simultaneously, remote”, with which the artist (maybe involuntarily) confronts us. (Ioana Mandea)

Róbert Köteles (b. 1975, Salonta) graduated from the Painting Department of the Timisoara West University (1998), class of Constantin Flondor; he lives and works in Timisoara and Salonta. This first exhibition at Anca Poterasu Gallery covers different areas of his recent production: form sketches and ink drawings to acrylic painting.