

Galerie Knecht und Burster

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Wednesday - Friday 2 - 6 pm
Saturday 12 - 3 pm
and by appointment

Wilhelm Neusser | in flux

Opening Gallery Day Karlsruhe | 2G

Saturday 15 January 2022 from 3-8 pm

15 January – 5 March 2022

Wednesday–Friday 2-6 pm, Saturday 12-3 pm and by appointment

Metaphorically speaking, *black and white* means thinking in extremes. It masks the equally metaphorical *gray area*, the transition from white to black, or black to white. It is precisely this blurry gradient that is the focus of Neusser's most recent paintings in vibrant colors.

His landscapes describe nature's constant change, through the seasons and at all times of the day, from light to dark. The atmosphere is just as ambiguous, oscillating between alluring illusion and repellent threat.

A marsh landscape under a dramatic sky alludes as much to Emil Nolde's Northern Germany as to California's wild fires. Inspired by the cranberry harvest, the series of *Bog* paintings portrays New England in the fall albeit with undertones of environmental pollution and natural disaster. Neusser's forsythias positively explode with intense color, lending to the nature of this early bloomer an unsettling artificiality.

In the large group of fence paintings the beholder is positioned outside the picture; access to the pictorial space is denied. Fences, as a means to enclose and to exclude, are supposed to help draw clear lines and provide clarity: black here - white there. Neusser's fenced landscapes undermine this, leading us back to the colorful gray area in which nothing is certain and everything is in flux.

Wilhelm Neusser (*1976 Cologne) studied at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe with Professors Gerd van Dülmen and Harald Klingelhöller. As a visiting student of art history, he

attended the Karlsruhe University of Design with Professors Hans Belting and Siegfried Goh. Until 2011 Neusser was active in Cologne, since then he lives and works in Somerville, Massachusetts, USA.

Neusser's work is regularly presented in international exhibitions, most recently at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery (Boston, 2020), Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam, 2019), Fruitlands Museum (Harvard, MA, 2019), and MASS MoCa (North Adams, MA, 2018). In 2020 he was honored with a Finalist Fellowship in Painting by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. He has received other grants and awards through the MASS MoCA Studio Program (2017), Vermont Studio Center (2013 and 2015), Finalist, Wilhelm Morgner Prize, Soest (2010), International Artist in Residence, Boots Contemporary Art Space (St. Louis, MO, 2009), ZVAB Phoenix Art Prize (2007). Neusser's work has been reviewed in various publications, including The Boston Globe, Boston Magazine, Artscope Magazine, Boston.com, and Big Red & Shiny.