

NEW RELEASE

Stephen Cone Weeks

Was uns trägt The place you can't get to

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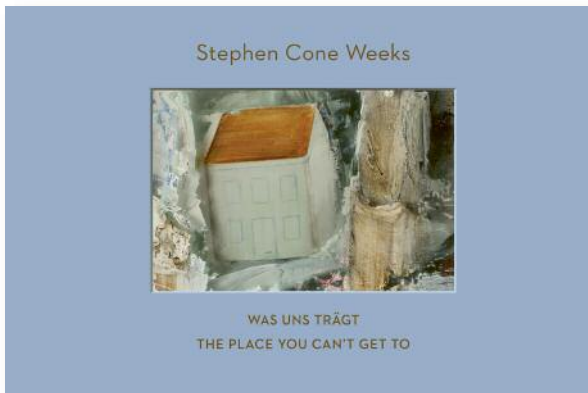
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New works on glass by the Düsseldorf-based artist

What is it that sustains us in life? The German title of the publication and eponymous exhibition seems to pose a question to which the drawings do not provide an answer, ambiguous scenes wrapped in layers of glass like fruit in jelly: visible, inviting, but unreachable. »The place you can't get to.« The space behind the glass has always interested the Canadian artist Stephen Cone Weeks. With his drawings on glass, he tells stories he does not know, whose spaces of action remain closed to him, and whose narrative »in the dark« both torments and delights him. On a glass stage, objects and allegorical figures point to connections that ultimately remain unfathomable in their complexity and infinite interpretability, leaving the viewer with a sense of longing, but also hope.

From the text by **Gundula Caspary**:

Stephen Cone Weeks constructs his complex scenes from (small but) real elements which he banishes to the two-dimensionality of drawing and then reinstates in the three-dimensionality of multi-layered glass — a place we can't get to, that we have to stand back from in order to look at from outside. But the light shed by the fire (of Prometheus or of the small figurine of the girl), the light at the end of the Tunnel that brings confidence and hope, will, like a mental flash of lightening, illuminate the path to the story in the picture. The fire animates us to continue looking, to wander through the scenes with our eyes and imaginations, to fill the spaces with our own thoughts and find stories we would never have dreamed were there. These are not concrete stories prescribed by the artist. We are being offered narrative possibilities, which leave the viewer

completely free to invent their own stories according to their own experience and understanding of life and following their own thoughts, hopes, and desires. That these stories are slippery and hard to grasp, that they are like the contours of the images, which keep dissolving, are broken by a sweep of plaster, or disappear between layers of glass, only makes the task of fathoming them more challenging. And it is infinite. Never will the viewer find only one interpretation, only one script, only one secret.

Stephen Cone Weeks, Canadian, was born in England in 1952. He grew up in Canada, the USA and Germany. His grandfather was the American painter Marvin Cone (1891—1965). After studying drawing and stained glass in Germany from 1968—1972, Stephen Cone Weeks returned to Canada where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in drawing and lithography from the University of Windsor, Ontario, in 1976. A DAAD scholarship made it possible for him to study under Professor Rolf Sackenheim at the Art Academy of Düsseldorf where he became a Meisterschüler in 1978. He worked entirely on paper until he began doing his drawings on glass in 1997. Stephen Cone Weeks lives in Düsseldorf and at Lago di Como in Italy. stephenconeweeks.de

Exhibition

Was uns trägt / The place you can't get to

Stadtmuseum, Siegburg, Germany

05.09. – 24.10. 2021

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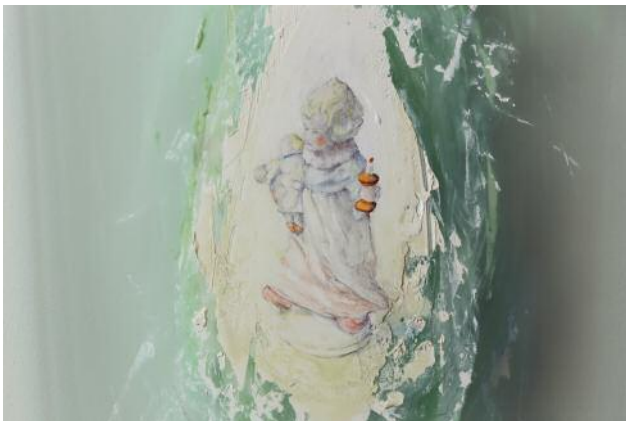
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