



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Ralph Gelbert Beyond the Visible

Texts by Jürgen Ecker, Miriam Langenscheidt, Dietmar Schuth

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Ralph Gelbert presents recent works featuring his intoxicating worlds of color.

Ralph Gelbert's manner of painting is impulsive, ecstatic, and at times veritably Dionysian. We are dealing here with an art form that refers back to the body, to movements that do not rely on a previously developed concept, but rather follow a physical dynamism and sensual logic. Their art historical roots can be found in art informel, which developed in Paris in the 1940s and 1950s with the goal of liberating painting from its dependence on external reality and thus allowing it to come into its own, so to speak. Viewers of Gelbert's paintings are made privy to the volcanic energies that have become manifested within them, a sheer delight in rich and at times flamboyant colors which flow out of them, become blurred, form clouds, vortices, and striations. Fantastical spaces emerge in his works, artificial worlds which are neither illustrations of existing sites nor subjective interior spaces. And what may for some appear to be ecstatic is due not only to spontaneous impulses, but also to calculation and discipline. As with calligraphies in the spirit of Zen, the impression of spontaneity and intensity presupposes a maximum degree of self-control. (Excerpt from: Hans-Walter Schmidt, *Les Paradis Artificiels*)

»Ralph Gelbert goes to the source; to nature. He explores various landscapes around the world and takes home with him his diverse insights and experiences from nature. A romantic might say he creates from nature's constantly overflowing cup of joy. Though his large format paintings have titles like 'Rheinaue', 'Irische Landschaft', 'Savanne', 'Shelley Point' and 'Wasserspiegelung', the passionate

traveller is not offering up exact reproductions of topographies. They are rather remembrances, convergences; echoes of previously seen expanses, of what flows and exudes calm; nature untamed, intoxicating and breathtaking.«

– from the text by Jürgen Ecker

Ralph Gelbert has been a lecturer at the Bad Reichenhall Art Academy since 2007 and a lecturer in Virtual Design and Interior Design at the University of Applied Sciences in Kaiserslautern since 2008. In 2017 he was curator of the International Artists' Symposium in Neustadt an der Weinstraße for the fourth time. He has travelled around the world multiple times for study visits and as an artist in residence, including to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Israel, Ireland, Scotland and California. The artist lives and works in Neustadt an der Weinstraße.

www.gelbert.com

Exhibitions

Beyond The Visible

Kunstverein Schwetzingen, Orangerie Schloss Schwetzingen
31.05 – 27.06.2018

Abstrakter Expressionismus

Kunstakademie Bad Reichenhall, Alte Saline
18.06. – 23.06.2018 / 27.08. – 01.09.2018

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Katharina Windfuhr, katharina.windfuhr@kehrerverlag.com
Sandra Dürdoth, sandra.duerdoth@kehrerverlag.com
Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
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Press images



1 Stromboli | 180 x 200 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
© Ralph Gelbert



2 Minotauros | 100 x 80 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
© Ralph Gelbert



3 Venice Beach | 200 x 180 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
© Ralph Gelbert



4 Atlantic Beach | 200 x 170 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
© Ralph Gelbert



5 Schwarzwald | 180 x 200 cm | 2016 | Oil on canvas
© Ralph Gelbert



6 Etosha | 160 x 140 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
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7 Altrheinlandschaft | 160 x 140 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
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8 Porto Rotondo | 140 x 160 cm | 2017 | Oil on canvas
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9 Ponza | 100 x 160 cm | 2016 | Oil on canvas
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10 San Sebastián | 100 x 160 cm | 2018 | Oil on canvas
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