

ANDREAS BINDER GALLERY

Press Release

GIOVANNI CASTELL | *Im Jetzt*

Opening: Friday, September 13, 2019 | 7 pm
OPEN ART: September 14-15, 2019 | Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
Exhibition: September 14 – November 2, 2019

With *Im Jetzt* Galerie Andreas Binder presents the first solo exhibition with the artist Giovanni Castell. In technical multi-layered images, reminiscent of color field painting, the artistic motif almost disappears in favor of an exploration of the essence of light, space and color. Herewith Castell is creating a painterly illusion of spatiality, in which the immateriality of light and energy becomes immediately tangible.

While his past series *Aporie*, consisting of digital photographs and renderings, was characterized by clear spatial compositions and narrative elements, his new, largely abstract works are virtually created as well, but achieve their contemplative effect in particular through a process, that is taking place after the digital design. Castell uses a screen printing process. Afterwards he coats the backgrounds of the plexiglass with gold and silver leaf and through the heat of the oven, it finally gets arched. The merging of painterly, photographic and technical elements thus becomes the mirror of a subjectively experienced, unfrozen, moment that can only be perceived sensually.

The iconographic relationship to American Expressionism is clearly recognizable. Castell's approach is intuitive. His inspiration comes from moments of calm in which subconscious moods are revealed. His shapes are organic and curvy, graceful rather than structural. Figurative elements - the shadow of a person or the motif of the flower – can only be found occasionally. It almost seems like being faced with virtual illusory worlds and the ubiquitous acceleration of all spheres of life, art has started to research for beauty in nature and to portray it again. In that sense, the anti-avant-garde motif of the flower becomes an microcosmic image of the immediate sensuality, as it can be experienced only here and now and beyond the continuum of past, present and future. The approach to the sublimity of the moment, that enables one to perceive macrocosmic structures in the present, illustrates the spiritual dimension of Castell's works. His images – moved through colors of silver and gold and soaked with light - embody more than an illusion created by an algorithm. Rather, they are able to provide the viewer with a startling experience of beauty, as one might know from mystical sources.

Giovanni Castell (born 1962 in Munich) studied Fashion Design in Milan and Rome and Philosophy in Munich. So far, his works have been shown in numerous national and international exhibitions (Kunsthau Hamburg, Germany; Museum Salzburg, Austria; Museum Bozen, Italy). He lives and works in Hamburg.