

Press Release

GIOVANNI CASTELL | *ENIGMA*

Opening: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 | 6 pm  
Duration of the exhibition: November 09 - December 22, 2023

With *Enigma*, Galerie Andreas Binder already presents the artist Giovanni Castell's second solo exhibition.

Castell himself formulates that, due to the flood of images of today, "the magic of photography is over". He wants to "move on, reach a new technical as well as artistic dimension". Because of this, the artist goes beyond the medium of standard photography and uses digital processing and painting. In doing so, he combines archaic and contemporary materials, giving contemporary art a form that does not forget the past and hopes for a better tomorrow.

The artist creates his works through a screen-printing process in which he coats the backgrounds of the plexiglass with silver and gold leaf. The heat of the oven then gives the plexiglass its distinctive curvature. The fusion of painterly, photographic, and technical elements mirrors a subjectively experienced, unfrozen moment that individuals can perceive sensually.

In technically complex paintings reminiscent of color field painting, the artist often allows his actual motif to virtually disappear in favor of an exploration of the essence of light, space, and color. The iconographic relationship to American Expressionism is palpable in many of the works presented in the exhibition. In addition to works that captivate with organic forms, however, some feature figurative elements - most notably the apparent motif of the flower. Isolated pure landscape depictions in the exhibition form a novelty in the spectrum of Castell's pictorial themes.

Color plays a significant role in Castell's works. In each case, it also absorbs the light emitted by the rear silver or gold foil to release luminescence and spread it over the entire surface.

The artist focuses on the state of loneliness of the individual in society. Technology and networking are increasing daily, while conversations and relationships are decreasing. Accordingly, the human figure vanishes from Castell's paintings - leaving the field to color and luminescence. The symbolic nature of light ultimately explains the artist's focus on creating a unique light effect for love, hope, redemption, faith, and confidence. The artworks of Giovanni Castell thus captivate with a painterly illusion of spatiality, in which the immateriality of light and energy is immediately perceptible.

*Giovanni Castell (born 1962 in Munich) studied fashion design in Milan and Rome and philosophy in Munich. He has shown his works in numerous national and international exhibitions (including Kunsthaus Hamburg, Museum Weishaupt Ulm, Museum für Moderne Salzburg, Museum Bolzano). The artist lives and works in Hamburg. In 2023, a new illustrated book on Giovanni Castell's artistic work was published.*