



# Leonard Rickhard

## Paintings

**Martin Herbert**

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- A monograph of the painter Leonard Rickhard, one of the most significant representatives of contemporary art in Norway
- A comprehensive selection of Leonard Rickhard's most important and significant paintings from the 1970s to the present day
- Accompanies an exhibition at Oslo Contemporary, Oslo, Norway from 15th November 2012

Leonard Rickhard is an outstanding representative of Norwegian contemporary art. Owing to his unique vision and narrative techniques, he has revitalised painting as a means of artistic expression. In his conceptual paintings he portrays a fragmented and often enigmatic reality, inviting the viewer to discover and reconstruct his pictorial narrative. Rickhard's universe of motifs and figures can be traced back to the 1970s: birch forests, building sites and heaps of machinery are combined with finely detailed depictions of machine parts and fragments of models. His narrative picture sequences are often populated by melancholy and contemplative human figures. Rickhard has constantly questioned, challenged and recontextualised this pictorial universe. His artistic works occupy a unique position in Norwegian art, precisely because of their uncompromising reworking of recurring motifs. His paintings appear as solid and monumental constructions, which at the same time reveal a fundamental complexity, restlessness and vulnerability. The combination of conceptual strategies and formal aspects is one of the most significant strengths of his artistic oeuvre in the variegated field of contemporary art.

Text in English, German & Norwegian.