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The Nature of Abstraction
Jan Holthoff

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- Seven contemporary positions in abstract-gestural painting from the Rhineland, Germany
- Published to accompany an exhibition at Kunstwerk Köln in July 2021, and at RUIJMTE P60 ASSEN, Netherlands, from October 17th to November 17th 2021
- Text in English and German

The catalogue for the group exhibition *The Nature of Abstraction* combines seven artistic positions in abstract-gestural painting from the Rhineland. On display are artists who have dedicated themselves to abstract painting. Their self-referential work fluctuates between the poles of dissolution and development of form. Despite their formal precision, the process of creating the paintings can be seen in the marks left behind on the canvases. Thus, an affinity to Informalism, Tachism, or Abstract Expressionism from the post-war period becomes apparent. However, these references are not directly cited, but rather updated and reflected through contemporary strategies. We find ourselves in an era when individual expression of freedom is threatened by powerful systems of authoritarian control and the digital availability of individual data and profiles. The kind of painting that favours a subjective gesture and thus mirrors humanistic values of individuality might be an answer.

Artists:

Laura Aberham, Max Frintrop, Ina Gerken, Jan Holthoff, Jan Kolata, Becker Schmitz, Sabine Tress

Text in English and German.

