

HEIR

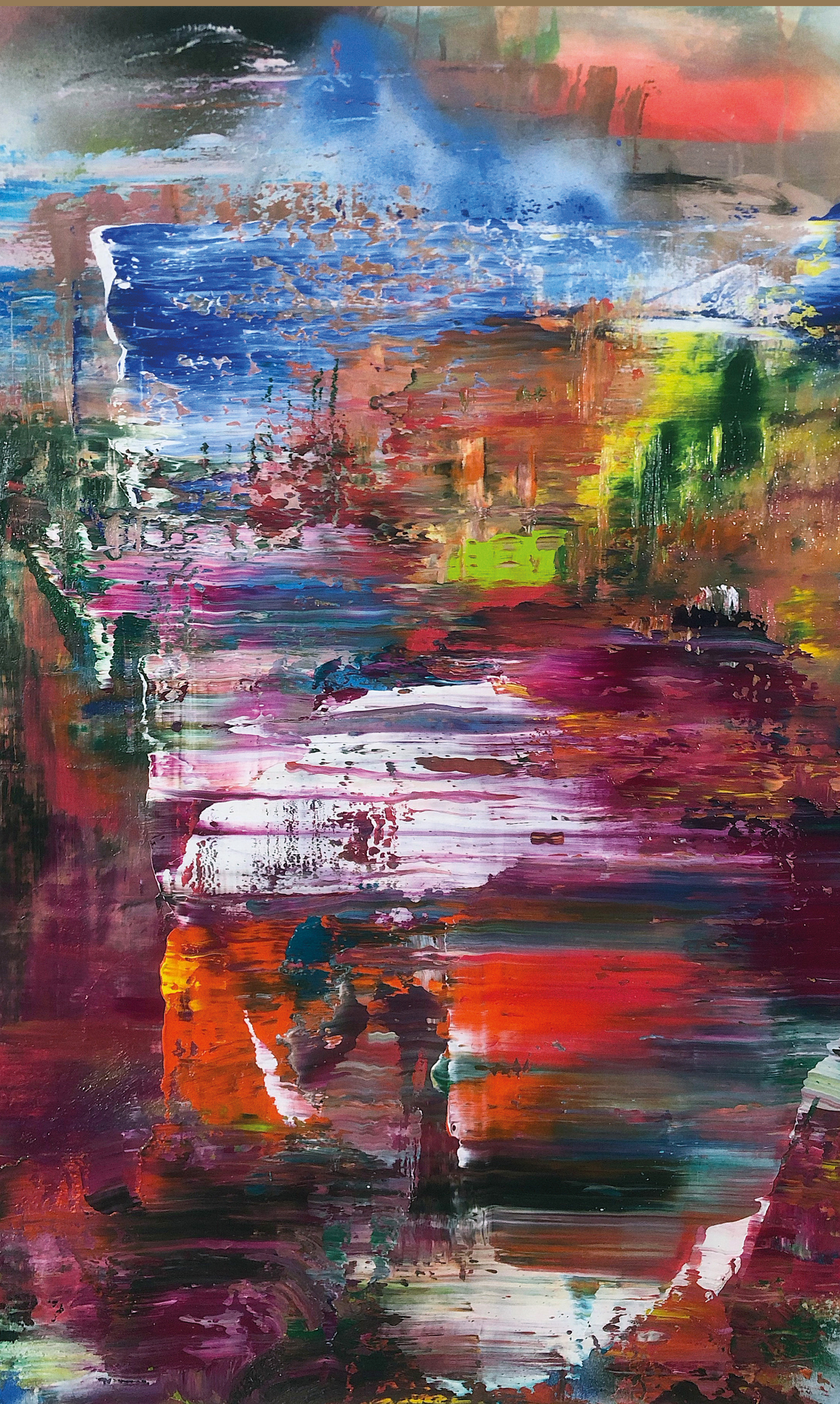
Paintings by Claus Brunsmann

3 December 2023 – 17 February 2024

Opening 3 December, 3 – 7 pm

Musical performance by Ayane Kondo, 4 pm

artloft.berlin, Gerichtstrasse 23, 13347 Berlin — www.artloft.berlin



© Claus Brunsmann, *Untitled*, 2023, oil on canvas, 90 × 70 cm

Over the last twenty years, Claus Brunsmann has found new forms of expression in painting that defy such conventional categories as “abstract” or “figurative.” Of importance in this regard is his early positioning in the 1990s, that is, a time when art had once again turned away from painting in a neo-conceptualist manner.

The 1980s had been dominated by a rather expressive punk attitude—“Heftige Malerei,” Martin Kippenberger, etc. Brunsmann chafed in his own way at his renowned academic Richter, Markus Lüpertz, Jannis Kounellis—because he did not consider their work radical enough. . . .

Thus Brunsmann went to the academy to deal with the history of painting in a new way and to develop a contemporary approach to reading it. . . . For Brunsmann, painting was and is more important as a ritual than as a representation of objects. Basically, the act of painting itself is celebrated and addressed, but again and again the painting is stuck or hung somewhere when new spaces are opened up. Encounters and collisions are created, and lightning repeatedly strikes the field of painting, so to speak. Painting

becomes an arena, a space of experience. Running right through Claus Brunsmann’s paintings is this contradiction between the exploration of new spaces — as for example Bruce Nauman did performatively — and a return to tradition — such as Vermeer and Velazquez and all the wonderful possibilities of oil painting. Brunsmann treats color, which he compresses or reduces coolly to gray values, in a completely new way and at the same time evokes tradition and the history of painting. . . . This fundamental contradiction is what makes his art so exciting.

Stephan von Wiese and Constanze Kleiner for *Die Landschaft in Uns / The Landscape inside Us*, Kleinervonwiese gallery, Berlin, 2017 (translated from German).

HEIR – Paintings by Claus Brunsmann is part of a series of exhibitions at Gerichtstrasse 23, a building that has become a dynamic multicultural organism, considered by visitors from many corners of the world as an edifice with an open, free-spirited Berlin character. G23 is a space offering layers of continuously developing creative activities exploring new initiatives across various disciplines.

Exhibition curation: Tanya Berlinski
Poster design: studiopyda.com

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