

Wolfgang Leber – For the Eighty-Fifth **DIALOG FARBE**

April 8th – June 5th 2021



Stadtgarten · 1991 ·
Latex auf Leinwand · 125 x 100 cm

It was like that with Wolfgang Leber from the beginning - he sees what surrounds him with alert, special eyes. These impressions are infinite stimuli for his imagination and ultimately for his paintings.

The changes that his work has undergone up to the present day appear step by step, comprehensible, and without sudden, unexpected cuts. And yet, his artistic career began with a break that helped determine his further development. In 1961, the East Berliner had to break off his studies at the HfBK in Berlin-Charlottenburg abruptly. He had just begun them after completing his training in the graphics class at the Werkkunstschule. The graphic artist Leber nevertheless became a painter who quickly took an important and distinctive place in the East Berlin art scene.

The exhibition "Dialog Farbe" (Dialog color) shows a selection of his motifs from the 1960s until today. They range from his very immediate surroundings, the studio, and repeatedly the city - without and with implied figures - to figures in interiors to abstract, sometimes mysterious beings and things as well as still lifes and interiors without spatiality.

One can see the pleasure and playfulness of painting in the artwork. After the first moment, the viewer's desire and play flooded by the nuanced colorfulness, discover individual areas of the picture, whether through the form or the color. To enter into the invented, sometimes ironically humorous reality of Wolfgang Leber always seems like an adventure. And no matter how intensively one enters into this adventure, it is impossible to decipher his reality completely. Secrets remain.

The daily visit to the studio is natural for the artist, even at the age of 85. Here, in addition to canvases, works on paper, ideas for lithographs, zincographs, and etchings are created. In the summer months, when the Berlin painter is away from his city temporarily but not too far, he works on relief-like stones and builds and welds whimsical sculptures from found objects.

Wolfgang Leber's Œuvre is characterized equally by faithfulness to himself and by constant change, which the consequence of faithfulness can only explain. His work continues to grow unceasingly. We look forward to it and try to keep up with his curiosity.



Hausform Rhodos · 1998
Öl auf Leinwand · 53 x 71 cm