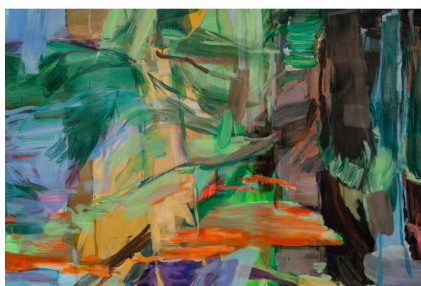
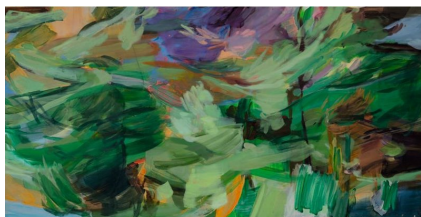


Viriditas

Denise Richardt

September, 11th – October, 31th 2026



Wald · 2026 · Eitempera auf Leinwand · Diptychon,
oberer Teil 85 x 155 cm, unterer Teil 105 x 155 cm



Okno II (nach Josef Sudek) · 2026 · Eitempera auf
Leinwand · 40 x 30 cm

Viriditas is a term first coined and used by Hildegard von Bingen. In Latin, “viridis” means green. Literally, then, viriditas means “greenness.” With this word, however, Hildegard von Bingen referred less to the color itself than to the power inherent in green—the life force of nature in general. Once during my studies, while we were sitting outdoors painting, my deeply respected teacher, Dieter Goltzsche, said: “Remember, nature is not green.” This plunged me, if not into utter despair, then at least into deep contemplation.

So if nature isn’t green, what is it? A source of origin? A place of longing? Simply beauty? Or comfort? A mirror of our own mortality? In any case, nature is a place of subjective experience.

It’ll start with myself: when I look at nature, I don’t just see the individual plant—a cherry tree, for example—but—entirely in the spirit of Hildegard—I perceive the impulse and vigor to grow upward, to bud, and to bloom. I hear the rustling of the wind in the leaves; I see the play of light. I notice a flower wilting—and the special beauty inherent in that.

One answer to the question, therefore, would be for me: Nature isn’t green; it simply is. And painting can—or perhaps must—begin precisely there: in the attempt not to depict this “being,” but to engage with it through its own means, above all through color.

*Denise Richardt, speech at the exhibition opening
(abridged text; the full text is available on the website)*

CV

- 1972 – born in Berlin
- 1993–1998 – studied at the Berlin-Weißensee Academy of Art (painting / fine art)
- 1997 – studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna
- 1999 – Master’s student at the Berlin-Weißensee School of Art under Prof. Dieter Goltzsche
- 2000 – Scholarship from the Kulturfonds Foundation for the Künstlerhaus Lukas, Ahrenshoop
- 2001 – Scholarship from the Academy of Arts for the Villa Serpentara in Olevano Romano, Italy
- 2003 One-year scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for Rome, Italy
- 2002 – 2005 Artist-in-residence in Rome, Italy
- Since 2017, regular artist-in-residence stays in the south of France

Lives and works in Berlin