



DIAF 2024 - Dialogue exhibition with Harry Meyer and Woo Jong Taek

The artistic positions of Harry Meyer and Woo Jong Taek enter a dialog in the Bode Galerie's exhibition presentation at the Daegu International Art fair: Art from the most diverse cultural backgrounds, linked by the inner attitude towards aesthetics of the two artists, can reveal philosophical similarities, especially through their initially obvious differences. Mutual contemplation can only be achieved through the respective artistic creation. Painting functions as a means of overcoming worldly boundaries, allowing concentration not on differences but on similarities.

The German painter Harry Meyer (*1960 in Neumarkt) is known for his expressive landscape paintings, in which he attempts to capture the essence of nature through painterly means. However, his pictures of nature are not to be understood as mimetic or romantically transfigured, but rather the artist captures on canvas the forces that linger and arise immanently in nature. In his work cycle "Gipfelwelten" (translates to "Summit worlds"), the artist devotes himself to the motif of the mountain and in particular the summit itself. The artist captures the sheer size of the mountains, sometimes on a small scale, and yet his impasto application of paint and dynamic brushstrokes enable him not only to portray the sublimity of the mountains, but also to express it atmospherically. The mountains linger in a dynamic swirl of colors and show the true power of our nature.

The South Korean artist Woo, Jong-Taek (*1973 in Yonging, South Korea) stands in direct visual contrast to this. The works and their depiction completely elude representationalism. The artist's expressive stroke, which develops eruptively from a moment of Zen, allows an insight into a moment long past. The monochrome works in the "Memory of Origin" series show the natural energies of our world and the artist's contemplation of the fundamental philosophical question of our existence: the origin of all life. The artist combines South Korean culture and the tradition of Zen painting and calligraphy with a modern expression.

The exhibited unique pieces are initially obviously divergent, but on closer inspection, similarities can be discovered in both the respective philosophies and painting styles. The different positions intertwine and open the viewer's eyes to a discourse between two cultures.