

Concept, Emotion, Action, Chance, Structure

Detlef E. Aderhold presents his artistic programme at the Heinrich-Heine-Haus

BY FRANK FÜLLGRABE

Lüneburg –There are painters who work intuitively, and they do not like to say much about their works; they would prefer them to speak for themselves. Lüneburg's Detlef E. Aderhold is different. "Conception & Structure" is the name of his current exhibition, which can be seen at the Heinrich-Heine-Haus until 1 September. And the painter has also named five variables that define the creative process, although this is not a rigid programme.

The concept also involves looking back: the current presentation builds on his first one in 2011 – "Spontaneity Creates Structure". Aderhold now talks about "shifting the balance", towards the concept. In his list of variables, the idea, sketch and composition are followed by emotion, which is to be seen as an element of the spontaneous. Third: action, the sketch on the canvas. Fourth: chance, as an outside intervention in the formal process that cannot be defined in advance. Fifth: structure, the result of action, which can then in turn be the starting point for an idea, a new concept. All five variables must be weighed and balanced "until the structure of a good form has been achieved and the painting can remain as it is".

That is the framework. But how does this look in concrete terms? As a rule, the organising lines can be recognised at first glance: sometimes they are concrete, showing a face, for example, or in other places they can be interpreted as paths, conduits, information superhighways or veins. The digital network is among the themes of the artist, who grew up when there was still no internet; the tight connectivity of the digital world is certainly experienced as a threat. Thus, chance plays out within the boundaries of this order: there are explosions of colour, glaring streams of lava that cool into bizarre patterns. Some elements seem archaic, like a cave painting; the silhouette of an axe emerges repeatedly.

Chance or concept, the works of this doctor of psychology are esteemed: they are to be found at exhibitions and art fairs in England and the US. Aderhold was just invited to contribute to the presentation "Personal Structures" in the context of the 58th Venice Biennale: at the Palazzo Bembo, near the Rialto Bridge, it is surely a good place to be. His works have been shortlisted for the Summer Exhibitions of London's Royal Academy of the Arts in 2018 and 2019. Here, you can also sense his ambition to expand his own horizons: the artist does not leave this to chance.