

Uwe Henneken **Always Returning**

Opening: Friday 15.03.2019, 6:30 pm
Duration: 16.03.2019 – 19.05.2019
Curated by Dr. Nadia Ismail

Official greeting
Dietlind Grabe-Bolz
Mayor of the City of Gießen

Introduction
Dr. Nadia Ismail
Director of the Kunsthalle Gießen and curator of the exhibition

The artist is present

The Berlin based artist Uwe Henneken (*1974 in Paderborn) enables insights into other dimensions through his work. To do so he often chooses the motif of the landscape, drawing on the repertoire of the history of art and culture. Symbolism and Romanticism are particularly important points of reference in his early works, as these movements perceive landscape painting less as a depiction of nature and more as an expression of emotional impulses or of a deeper reality. Henneken also regards his depictions of nature as internal landscapes. Differing variations of circular and oval forms recur as motifs in his paintings and objects. These forms capture the basic idea of the exhibition *Always Returning*, namely the cyclic, the infinite and the eternal return.

Henneken's work is characterised by themes such as searching and finding, by wanderings and entry into new strange worlds. His paintings visualise moments of transition between different levels of consciousness. As a result his works seem to provide the viewer access to spaces that cannot be entered with the physical body.

Uwe Henneken achieves this above all through his unique use of colour. His palette ranges from the darkest, almost melancholic tones, to tones that are garishly colourful with bright joyfulness. Stark contrasts distinguish his painting. Uwe Henneken estranges sublime landscapes such as desert depictions or dramatic mountain formations with an exaggerated, garish palette of colours. Therefore the mood of Henneken's landscape paintings is held in suspense, something that is especially evident to the extreme in his earliest works, where idyllic and morbid motifs are combined.

Conceptually, Henneken comes close to 'Magic Realism', which depicts a connection between factual and metaphysical reality. To a certain extent, it forms a 'third reality', that is a synthesis of the common systems of perception.

Uwe Henneken's unique aesthetic is reminiscent of dream landscapes and invites us to journey through our own inner worlds. In particular, Henneken's large-format canvases that were created especially for the exhibition *Always Returning* at the Kunsthalle Gießen, transport the viewer into dimensions beyond the familiar. It is the size of the works that enables the viewer to virtually experience the worlds created here physically.

Uwe Henneken (*1974 Paderborn, lives in Berlin)

Due to his unique use of colour, Henneken is regarded as holding one of the most outstanding positions amongst contemporary painters. He studied at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe and the Universität der Künste in Berlin. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions both at home and abroad since 2000.

Accompanying programme

10 questions to...

Thursday 16.05. 7pm

Uwe Henneken

Family afternoon

Monday 14.04 + 13.05 2-4 pm

Workshops for young and old

From 6 years old when accompanied by an adult

Registration at kunsthalle@giessen.de

Guided tour with the curator

23.04.2019 5 – 6 pm

Art education in individual conversations

Saturdays 23.03. + 06.04. + 04.05. + 18.05. 3 – 5 pm

Tuesdays 26.03. + 09.04. + 16.04. + 07.05. 2 – 4 pm

Art and coffee

with Fabian Stein and Ehrenamt e.V.

20.03. + 24.04. 3 pm

Registration at kunsthalle@giessen.de

Participation fee 2,50 Euros

Entrance is free to all events.

Opening times

Tuesdays to Sundays 10 am – 6 pm

Closed on Good Friday, 19.04.2019