

stumpf und feurig

Marien Schouten Jos van Merendonk



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private preview donnerstag, 20. märz 2014
vernissage freitag, 21. märz 2014, 17.30–20 uhr
die künstler sind anwesend
ausstellungsdauer 22. märz–3. mai 2014
öffnungszeiten geöffnet während den ausstellungen
von donnerstag bis freitag, 14–18 uhr,
samstag 12–16 uhr, und nach vereinbarung
ort talhofstrasse 11, 9000 st. gallen

Stumpf und feurig obviously refers to the skin, the material qualities of the work, but could also be read as a description of the difference in nature between the two bodies of work. Our Dutch gallery artists **Marien Schouten** (*1956 Andel) and **Jos van Merendonk** (*1956 Amsterdam) started their careers in the early eighties as painters. Van Merendonk is still considered a hardcore painter whereas Schouten developed a large sculptural/ceramic oeuvre out of, alongside his painting. Green played a role in their work from the beginning and has been aggravated. The *Chromoxidgrün feurig* as used in the early paintings of Schouten developed into overall, literally burned green glaze skinned sculptures.

Van Merendonk decided in 1988 to use only one pigment, chromium oxide green and has been using it ever since. Apart from *Chromoxidgrün stumpf* versus the fiery green glaze, and the distasteful combination of the two, there is something else at play. Van Merendonk's paintings may look like a certain type of painting, play to the the rules of something very familiar. But do they? And looking at a sculpture of Schouten, is it really a head you are seeing? And if not, what is it you are looking at? Without denying, maybe even misusing, these possible references and descriptions, both the work of Schouten and Van Merendonk turn back on themselves again and again, and seem to want to escape description. What happens when the works of Schouten and Van Merendonk come together?

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We look forward to welcoming you and your friends in St. Gallen.

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