

CHRISTIAN ACHENBACH

**Calarbodas** - Solo exhibition at Circle Culture Galleries Hamburg

First impression entering Christian Achenbach's Studio in Berlin's north districts feels like a heart and brain rush. You are entering a huge hall with brutalistic structures, selected mid century furniture and at its center a grown artistic quality represented by colorful large and mid size paintings and glass sculptures. When you are used to Berlins darker art clichés, in this studio right away - you will experience unexpectedly positive and liberated vibes.

After having worked in Germanys capital for almost 30 years as a creative and as a curator I can sense which kind of aesthetic, social and psychological experiences this city can inspire. It is a place that not easily connects you with nature in general and not even more you're your very own nature. You could tell that's a dead point for the practice of an artist. Isn't it at all about resurrecting his or her deepest and most crystalline experiences and knowledge into an artistic concept or expression?

Christian Achenbach's new body of work seems liberated and in conjunction with the flow of life. The colors intersect, dance and stream in self-confident directions. Translating a rhythm of presence, positivity, livelihood. You could detect the sense of a mystical energy pushing creation through time and space. Trees, mountains, rivers, seas and rocks. Every thing is connected through Achenbachs organic and constructivist lines. As much as the paintings scream for attention, when we get in touch, they talk to us in a humble tone.

Not only aesthetically everything flows within his paintings. Also art historically the intersections are fluid: Renaissance landscape painting, expressionism, asian landscape painting of the Tang and Ming dynasties, photoshop aesthetics, pop art and psychedelic influences and surrealism makes a wild but controlled imagery. Christian Achenbach masters that eclecticism very easily and makes each painting a deep and enjoyable experience.

Achenbach's glass sculptures do transcript his recognizable painting gestures into the three dimensional context. Their translucence and virtuosity define space in a seductive manner, always making abstract propositions for thought and interpretation.

Like the title of his show "Calarbodas", which proclaims the name of a non existing location on our planet, all of Achenbachs artistic practice wants to take us into dream scapes, full of dynamics, utopia and a positive appropriation of the force of the beauty our planet represents. I believe that's a perfect strategy for a species seeking for harmony with the global bio- and geosystem. Thank you Christian.

Johann Haehling von Lanzenauer  
*Curator*