

Press Release

Heike-Karin Föll
Artissima XYZ

Heike-Karin Föll works on the materiality and mechanisms of drawing, painting, and writing. Her work interacts with everyday media, reality and styles, analogue and digital texts and displays. Föll assumes the impossibility to conceive a completely blank canvas and works with a repertoire of existing gestures and historical positions. Föll's position around the idea of appropriation is no longer framed within postmodernist strategies like quotation and repetition, but rather as a constellation of different materialities and texts.

Painting becomes thus an interface where all kinds of screens and image regimes converge. Her thin-painted layers of gestural brushstrokes mark their translucency towards digital screens. Adopting an open-ended method, Föll uses the restless motion of internet as forms that can be packaged, compressed, edited and reused. In this context, the emergence of a gesture marks a moment of interruption, a turning point in which an otherwise ephemeral movement is recorded in an image or become an image. Föll questions how expressive dimensions of the body can be coded, formed, and transferred in painterly gestures.

A new series of paintings executed during lockdown alternate between the texture of prolonged screen time and the physical implications of paint. The works reflect an increased involvement with painting's materiality, rendered in thick layers of oil paint later scrapped, effaced or painted over.

Acknowledging that questioning is a mode of artistic production on its own, Föll takes up the political and social implications of form instead of annexing content to it. Form also contains the unformed, the informed, the formless, the space of in-determination between highly coded mediums, emphasising their unstable, ephemeral, and infinitely changing qualities.

Heike-Karin Föll (b. 1967) lives and works in Berlin. She recently had a major solo exhibiton at KunstWerke Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin (2019). Past exhibitions include Centre d'Art Neuchâtel, Switzerland (2018); Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Berlin (2016); Mumok, Vienna (2016); Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland (2014); The National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (2014); National Museum, Tbilisi (2014); Museum of Contemporary Art, Basel (solo exhibition 2012) and Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland (solo exhibition 2011). The artist is currently a Professor for Drawing and Critical Digitallity at Berlin University of the Arts (Universität der Künste Berlin, UdK).