

SPECIAL FOCUS **ERNST CARMELLE**

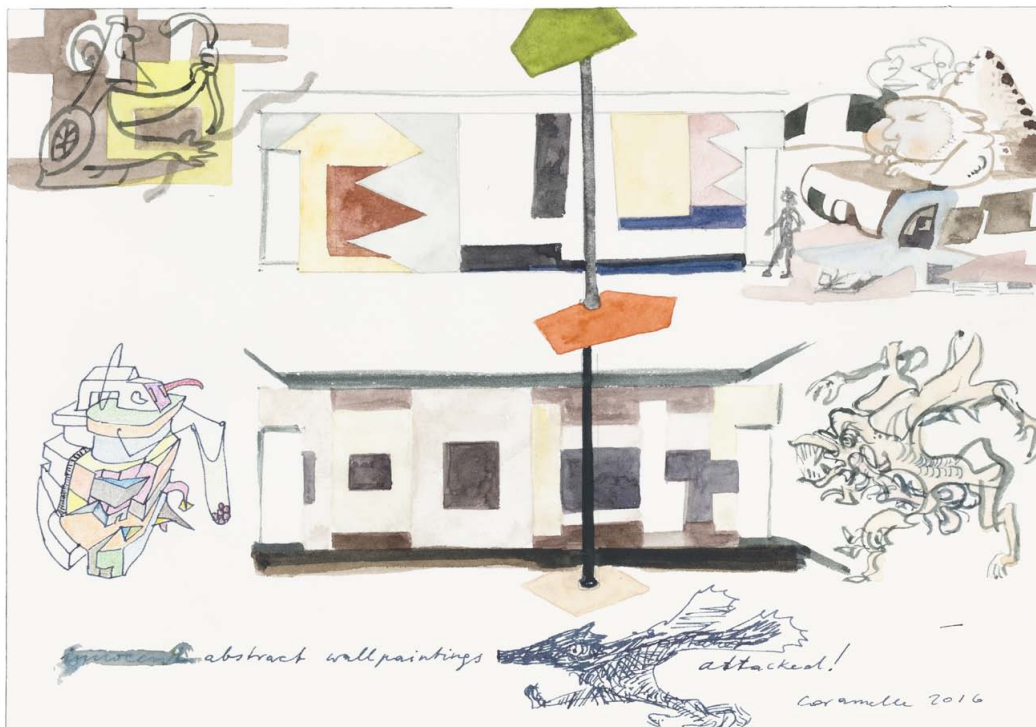
Ernst Caramelle, *Ein Résumé*, MUMOK Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Nov 2018 – Apr 2019

Ernst Caramelle's work plays with a multitude of references, while providing insight into the ambiguity of the phenomenon of the visible. What is reality, how credible is the visible, and what are the conditions of art are recurring questions in Ernst Caramelle's work since he first began exhibiting in the mid-seventies. "Art is a fake" has been his creed ever since. In his conceptually based oeuvre spanning many different media — from drawing, painting, photography, video, and mural art to virtually ephemeral works of sunlight on paper — he weighs the status of the original and fake, production and reproduction, the perception of art, and the context of art reception.

In our presentation at the ARCO, a mural painting connects with his individual works. Caramelle's wall paintings exhibit views refracted by different perspectives. In them, colored, sometimes washed-out shapes formally refer to spatial and geometrical elements — to architectural found

footage. In this system of doubles, mirror images, and juxtapositions, the wall is transformed into a picture. One spatial illusion follows the next, and perspective views mutate into physiognomies. Beholding is reversed into being beheld, and what is visible disputes its own status. The exhibited works — drawings, watercolors and Gesso-pieces — trace an ark from Caramelle's early works to his current production, introducing for the first time a new visual dimension by positioning individual works within the mural.

Of all the artists at Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Ernst Caramelle has been with us the longest. After he initiated the group exhibition *Multiplies* in 1978, he had his first solo show in the gallery in 1979. His most recognized retrospective exhibition *Ein Résumé* at the MUMOK Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien is on view until April 28, 2019.



Ernst Caramelle, abstract wallpaintings attacked!, 2016
India ink, watercolor on paper, 18 x 26 cm

ERNST CARMELLE was born in Hall in Tyrol in 1952. He lives and works in Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, and New York City. He participated in the Biennale Sydney in 1990 and documenta IX in Kassel in 1992.

Selected solo exhibitions:

2018 Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien; Marta Herford, Herford; 2017 Galerie der Stadt Schwaz, Schwaz; 2016 Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht; 2012 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; 2010 Bloomberg Space, London; 2008 Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck; 2006 Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; 2005 Museu Serralves, Porto; 2001 BAWAG Foundation, Vienna; 1998 Städtische Galerie, Nordhorn; 1993 Secession, Vienna; 1993 Portikus, Frankfurt; 1990 Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld; 1990 Nationalgalerie, Berlin; 1989 Musée départemental de Rochechouart, Rochechouart; 1986 Kunsthalle Bern; 1982 Kunsthalle Basel; 1981 Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt.

Selected museum collections:

Albertina, Vienna; Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht; FRAC Limousin, Limoges; Generali Foundation, Salzburg; Krefelder Kunstmuseum, Krefeld; Kunsthaus Bregenz; Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz; MUMOK Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna; Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck; Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum, New York.