



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

LANDESMUSEUM FÜR MODERNE
KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR
STIFTUNG ÖFFENTLICHEN RECHTS

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Berlinische Galerie presents the exhibition: Franz Ackermann. Hügel und Zweifel (Hills and Doubts)

Duration: 18.09.2013–24.03.2014



Installation shot, Photo: Jens Ziehe;

Franz Ackermann: Your Plastic, your Travel, 2013, © Franz Ackermann, Photo: Jens Ziehe

Until 24 March 2014, Berlinische Galerie is exhibiting works by Franz Ackermann. Ackermann (*1963 in Neumarkt St. Veit, Bavaria), a painter, illustrator and installation artist, has been one of the most important contemporary artists for more than fifteen years.

Franz Ackermann has devised a spatial concept for the Berlinische Galerie that constructs a relationship between a mural, paintings and photographs. He has filled the museum's entrance hall – which is more than 40 metres long and about ten metres high – with an installation to frame the space. It consists of a mural created especially for the museum, complemented by large scale panel paintings and photographs.

The result is a landscape specific to this setting and yet drawing on a tradition in panoramic landscape painting that began in the 16th century with the Flemish artist Joachim Patinir. Ackermann's work initially reveals a broad panoramic vista – a hilly microcosm. But when the spectator shifts position, a tremendous wealth of detail emerges. The idealised scenery is



punctuated by additions such as photographs from India and Tarlabasi, a neighbourhood of Istanbul awaiting demolition. These represent the doubts in the title. They are an integral part of the mural and yet at the same time challenge it.

Ackermann's work springs from little drawings, most of them cartographic, which he sketches during his prolific travels. These Mental Maps are in themselves subjective interpretations of spaces and places which he then distills and expands for his larger works. For Ackermann's installation, sightlines are as important as circulation routes, dimensions and the technical services installed in floors, walls and the ceiling over the exhibition space.

One key theme of Ackermann's work is tourism, which he sees as a kind of colonialism. He explores the Western perceptions and power relations that are inevitably imported when we travel to other countries, especially if they are poorer than ours. He is also interested in the changes in social and communication patterns deriving from our use of digital technologies. Now it is essentially possible to pay a virtual visit to anywhere in the world by Internet, feeling alien has acquired a new status as an experience. Ackermann sees the medium of painting as a reflection of painterly forms of expression, but also as a response to strategies of communication and models of perception.

Franz Ackermann was born in Neumarkt-Sankt Veit in 1963. In 1991, after studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg, he received a DAAD bursary for a stay in Hong Kong. In 2001 he was appointed Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe. He lives and works in Berlin and Karlsruhe.

The exhibition was realized as part of the cooperation *Painting Forever!* – a cooperation of Berlinische Galerie, Deutsche Bank KunstHalle, KW Institute for Contemporary Art and Nationalgalerie - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. *Painting Forever!* is an initiative of the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Senate Chancellery - Cultural Affairs.

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