

Hans Rath
Flughafen Tempelhof und andere Bilder
4. September – 16. Oktober 2010

JIRI SVESTKA BERLIN

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Opening hours: Tue – Sat 11am – 6pm

As fifth exhibition at its Berlin subsidiary the Jiri Svestka Gallery is exhibiting paintings by the German artist Hans Rath (born 1952, lives in southern France) under the title *Flughafen Tempelhof und andere Bilder*. Even though he has been working as an artist for more than 30 years, it is Rath's first exhibition in Berlin. So far Rath has only done a few group exhibitions (e.g. *Das Abenteuer der Malerei* in 1995). Therefore you can characterise him as an absolute maverick, although his paintings show an outstanding quality.

Landscapes, still lives, industrial architecture and the human body are the main subjects of Hans Rath's paintings. As his work is made in traditional painting technique, an association can easily be made with the era of impressionism. However Rath wants to avoid concrete and dogmatic classification, since he feels himself at home in the tradition of English painters of the 19th century and moreover with painters such as Frank Auerbach, Lucian Freud and Leon Kossoff from the 20th century. Rath's painting doesn't allegorise impressions but lives from the magic of realism.

The exhibition shows paintings mainly from the past two years: "It is the extremes of my subjects I'm confronting: organic versus constructed. On the one hand steelworks, on the other trees, plants and the naked male body." All of Rath's works originate where he is painting. In case of the landscape paintings in „plain air“ whereas the male bodies are made at his studio. Mostly they are finished within one session. The application of colour is very strong and emotional, so that Rath's work develops from one source with a wet in wet pastose stroke. Therefore his paintings can be seen in an absolute contrast to paintings made after photographs.

Hans Rath, born 1952, lives and works in Freiburg and in Villevieille. His work is represented in numerous of private collections (e.g. Essl Collection, Klosterneuburg) as well as in some public art collections.