

# *Althuis Hofland Fine Arts*

## *Brick & Mortar* **Julius Hofmann**

15 October - 13 November, 2021

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts proudly presents the exhibition 'Brick and Mortar' by artist **Julius Hofmann (1983, DE)**.

Hofmann studied under Neo Rauch and Heribert C. Ottersbach at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig. Since graduating in 2011 he has focused intensively on issues of picture composition and the representation of space and surfaces in the digital age – in painting and, for a number of years now, also in the medium of computer graphics and 3D animation.

A genre the artist has been fascinated by since playing computer games as a child in the 80's and 90's. According to Hofmann, painting has paved the way for computer graphics. From his point of view the field has always profited from the achievements in painting. While he makes use of computer game aesthetics in his painterly work, he in turn integrates elements from painting and sculpture in his digitally produced films and quotes artists associated with New Objectivity such as Anton Räderscheidt or the precursor of surrealism Giorgio de Chirico. The result is a continuous transfer from one medium to another, their boundaries steadily dissolving. This "re-import" opens up a dialogue between his paintings and 3D animations. Each of his works is embedded in a larger process and narrative that relates them to each other.

Within the exhibition "Brick & Mortar" Hofmann has "physicalized" sequences of digital movement by painting images from the same animated scene just split seconds apart. When switching from one painting to another, one will see the movement in subtle details. For example in the works "Die Steineklopfer" (2021) (S), "Die Steineklopfer" (2021) (M), and "Die Steineklopfer" (2021) (L) - painted in a sequence of 3 paintings from small to large - one can see the man in the back moves a brick; the light slightly changes in colour and the finger of the man with the chainsaw moves up and down. The work reminds of Gustav Courbet's 'The Stone Breakers' 1849, as the men not only break the stones, they seem to represent a contemporary worker on the basis of archetypes; big muscles, helmet and steady shoes. An archetypical language, and rakish movement similar to computer animations from the early 90's.

*Julius Hofmann graduated in 2011 from Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig. He was a student of the artist Neo Rauch and later Heribert C. Ottersbach in Leipzig. Recently his work was shown in 'the\_orgre.net' Suzanne Tarasieve, Paris. Recent solo exhibitions include: 'Gardener of Solitude', Künstlerhaus Göttingen (2021), 'Chimaera', Galerie am Ratswall, Bitterfeld, 'The Will of The Gods is Great Power', Galerie Kleindienst, Leipzig (2020) and 'Cinematic Cybernetics' at Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig (2018)*

*His work has been selected for Kino der Kunst 2020 initiated by Sammlung Goetz.*

*His works are a.o. in the public collections of: Collection von Metzler, Frankfurt am Main; Museum of Visual Art Leipzig; Reydan Weiss Collection, Essen; Collection Westhoff, Bremen; Art Collection of Sparkasse Leipzig.*