

CYDONIA

MEDIA CONTACT:

Hanh Ho, Director

Briana Williams, Artist Liaison: +1 214-296-4848 or briana@cydoniagallery.com

17-20 SEPTEMBER 2015

MICHAEL JUST: *LICHTUNG* AT ABC | ART BERLIN CONTEMPORARY 2015



Lichtung, 2015, metal leaf and enamel on aluminum, 195 x 295 cm.

DALLAS / BERLIN - CYDONIA is pleased to announce a curated, dual position featuring Julieta Aguinaco and Michael Just. Just is an interdisciplinary, postconceptual artist whose works are characterized by an equal commitment to the technical execution as well as the curatorial framework of his exhibitions. His process involves rich historical and theoretical research because the production methodology is focused both on material and immaterial functions of each object individually and together.

For abc, Just employed a unique, modified screen-printing technique onto four aluminum panels depicting imagery taken and archived by the artist in 1999. *Lichtung* (translated best, in an expanded sense, is a moment in space and time where light emerges) is examined as a concept, its numerous definitions, applications, and implications, and it is explored in eschatological and materialist terms.

The artist's personal biography provides a specific context to understand and depart from the works. Just grew up next to a village which the Berlin Wall bisected. The artist reflects on how that period of his life retroactively forged "a strong sense of the tangibility of history through its odd physical manifestations, on the one hand, and the idea that something significant which, in turn, would become history had just happened. At the same moment, there was a sense of the past and a sense progress. Progress, not in the enlightenment sense of qualitative change, but a kind of materialist, contingent change over time. How do forms come into being?" His concept is located between certainty and contingency.

Lichtung was conceptualized for abc's open position. Just invites the viewer into interludes, between concepts of light, as a clearing in the forest, as a Christian symbol of redemption and forgiveness, as a determined direction and path, as an underpinning for quantum mechanics and the beginnings of the entire universe. Just presents ideas of alpha and



omega in a single word, where it's meaning unfolds and explodes into all facets of human existence and beyond. The three additional panels are titled specifically to reflect on the conceptual background: *Ohne Titel (Kontingente Identitäten)*, *Ankunft*, and *Ohne Titel (Es hätte Licht geben können)*. (Translation: *Untitled (Contingent Identities)*, *Arrival*, *Untitled (There might have been light)*)

Light is named for its varying purposes, out of needs: religious, atheist, secular, or otherwise. Curatorially, each panel demonstrates language as malleable, conforming to, and manipulated for human needs and desires. The presentation refracts the moving nature of language and how it shapes and forms human history and knowledge.

Michael Just is a graduate of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, where he was awarded a Meisterschüler (*Master Scholar*) diploma as well as an EHF-Fellowship from the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. In 2009, he received an MFA from Goldsmiths, University of London as a DAAD Postgraduate Fellow and subsequently completed the Whitney ISP Program. He was a fellow at the Villa Aurora in Los Angeles in 2012. His work has been shown internationally in galleries and museums. Recent exhibitions include *What's Done Cannot be Undone* at CYDONIA in Dallas, *Checkpoint California* at the Deutsche Bank KunstHalle and group show with Eigen+Art Lab, both in Berlin. New work is also on view at *10x10*, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Berlin during Berlin Art Week.

The artist lives and works in Berlin.

###

LICHTUNG BY MICHAEL JUST will be on view from **SEPTEMBER 17** until **SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 AT ABC | ART BERLIN CONTEMPORARY IN BERLIN.**

CYDONIA is a contemporary art gallery located in Dallas, Texas focused on supporting the careers of emerging artists whose practices have international relevance. Our mission is to show artists that have cultural and historical significance, conceptual rigor, or are the singular voice of their generation.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 – 6:00pm. Other hours available by appointment. For more information, please contact info@cydoniagallery.com, call 214-296-4848, or visit www.cydoniagallery.com