

# PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 10, 2014

## THE POTATO PAPERS

*A visit of Stefan Stössel's current exhibition brings back memories of our childhood. Back in the day, nearly all of us have had our experience with the potato print. Its concept is easily comprehensible. However, the naive imagination of a child quickly reaches the limits of the procedure. The scope within painting is - that is how it goes - unequally larger.*

Yet, it was exactly this formal limitation of the technique that led Stefan Stössel to the stamp- and potato-print. Recalling the oeuvre of the artist, this step seems to have been an inevitable development. In his work, Stefan Stössel constantly pushes boundaries. On the one hand, one is faced with a realistic painting, which is so perfect that it is difficult to identify it as such. On the other, Stefan Stössel is known for an extreme graphic reduction in his two-dimensional still lifes. His pieces represent opposite extremes within the field of painting and it seems as if the artist feels very comfortable in this undefined space. Stefan Stössel defies alleged conventions. His work is far too diverse to be split up into stereotypical categories.

In his "Potato Papers", the artist redefines a well-known technique and, in doing so, establishes ties between naturalism and abstraction. What could be more naturalistic than the actual imprint of a potato on a sheet of paper? Still, the appearance of the depicted objects remains somewhat stylized or estranged by their coloration and Stössel's typical pictorial composition. In the end, it is the graphic reduction that bestows a playful lightness of being upon Stössel's art.

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**mr4**

Galerie für zeitgenössische **KUNST**



Stefan Stössel, 2012, untitled (Carrots), stamp on watercolor paper, 16.1 x 12.6 inch

His recent work demonstrates that a certain formal austerity does not automatically have to exclude a blithe outcome. The print "Cucumber in red, blue and yellow" for instance, inevitably brings masterpieces of pop art to one's mind – an art school that celebrated the entrance of everyday commodities in art as well.

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The exhibition is open to all visitors until May 24, 2014. At the same time, the gallery will begin a new exhibition series. "M2A Update" shows a selection of recent works by artists of the gallery.



The potato papers, exhibition view, Gallery M2A, 2014

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We are open Monday and Wednesday to Saturday from 2pm to 6pm.