

ULRICH ERBEN

Incontro DUE

December 6, 2019 - January 31, 2020
Opening: December 6, 6.30 p.m.

Living is practically the opposite of expressing oneself. If the great Tuscan masters are right, living means testifying three times: in silence, in flames and immobile.

Albert Camus, from "The Desert", in "Noces", Paris: Les Éditions Gallimard, 1959

I think of the blue of the sky by Beato Angelico.

What is this that we call "blue"? how can we think that? The same applies to death. We can't talk about death and colors.
Albert Camus

If this observation is correct, then we can hardly say anything about Ulrich Erben's paintings, we just have to watch and remain silent. His works are nothing but the color or light that produces color. But light in this case is something different from lighting. Light means a state different from simple lighting and brightness. Ulrich Erben uses colored pigments to evoke the light that we perceive in nature during happy moments: at dusk, at dawn, in the rainbow, in the clouds or in the silvery glow of the sea. Through rigorous interventions in these luminous spaces - through lines and stripes that break the sharp edges of the image and sometimes they are lost - it acts as an awareness that cuts the dreamlike chromatic variations .. These orthogonal interventions make us very clear how Ulrich Erben is able to evoke the founding sweetness of the chromatic spaces on the canvas.

text by Helmut Friedel

galleria gentili

ULRICH ERBEN was born in Düsseldorf (Germany) in 1940.

Between 1958 and 1963, he studied at Hamburg Academy of Art and later at those of Venice, Monaco and Berlin. Erben took part in some of the most important exhibitions dedicated to Analytical Painting, including: "Perception Times", Casa della Cultura, Livorno, 1973; "A possible future. New Painting", Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara; "Reflection about painting", Palazzo Comunale, Acireale; "Geplante Malerei", Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster; Galleria del Milione, Milan, 1974-75; "The Colours of Painting", Italian-Latin American Institute, Rome, 1976. In 1977, he was invited to Kassel for dOCUMENTA 6. Interested as he is about the effects of light beyond the picture, he also worked on mural projects like, for example, at the Museum Folkwang in Essen, at the Kunstverein in Cologne, at Galleria Piltzer in Paris, and at Five Ginza in Tokyo. In the last few decades, he held several shows in venues such as Kunsthalle in Mannheim (1984) and Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen in Düsseldorf (1990). In 2003, the Wiesbaden Museum dedicated to him a monographic exhibition. He also exhibited at Zappettini Foundation in Chiavari (Genoa) in the group shows "Painting 70. Painting-painting and analytical abstraction" (2004) and "Matt surfaces of analytic painting" (2009). Between 2010 and 2017, he has exhibited in various German institutions such as the Museum Kunst Palast (Düsseldorf), the Museum DKM (Duisburg) and the Museum Goch (Goch). In 2019 he had a solo show at Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop.

He lives and works between Düsseldorf and Bagnoregio, in the Province of Viterbo, Italy.