

»I learned it takes at least one artist to share your work with or art will die in a vacuum.«

John Baldessari

PRESS RELEASE

Richard Allen Morris | David Reed »From the Studio«

Exhibition: April 7 – May 6, 2016

New Opening Hours: Wednesday, 2 – 8 pm
Thursday and Friday, 2 – 6 pm
and by appointment

Häusler Contemporary Munich proudly presents painters Richard Allen Morris and David Reed in their first joint exhibition. The works selected for »From the Studio« reflect the mostly invisible conditions of art making using the example of two contrasting artistic practices.

David Reed and Richard Allen Morris' works and methods are opposed in many ways but based on similar questions. Furthermore, the two artists are friends and have been exchanging ideas about their own art and art in general over many years. As the title of our show indicates and the occasion of this special »tête à tête« we wish to focus on such aspects that lie beyond the work itself and in the artist's studio – a private place that is still perceived as somewhat »mystical« by the wide public, where either careful drafting or impulsive creating, selecting and separating takes place. Not everything that is produced in the studio finds its way into the gallery space, as various stages of decision making that accompany the development of a work are not meant for the public eye.

In our presentation, new »Color Studies« and »Working Drawings« by **David Reed** (*1946, San Diego, lives in New York) offer an exclusive insight into Reed's creative process that often takes several months or even years. In a quasi-protocol like manner the studies reflect the different working steps. Beyond that they are independent pictures, since the artist often continues to work on them after the corresponding painting is finished. These small-scale works with color samples and notes visualize Reed's struggle for the final precision in his large-scale paintings that unite in an astonishing way three-dimensional presence and transparency.

A selection of small paintings from 1961 to 2010 by **Richard Allen Morris** (*1933, Long Beach, lives in San Diego) shows different painterly options that the artist has been examining with insatiable energy ever since the beginning of his career when he and his friend John Baldessari shared ideas every day. In general, Morris works very

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spontaneously, and his works often reflect the studio's spatial situation in a direct way, for example the »Painter's Room« series. There's also a direct connection between Morris' specific practice in his studio and the dimensions of his pictures. David Reed puts it like this: »By working quickly on small paintings, Richard is able to recharge himself with the new discoveries that he makes in each work. I think his speed of execution and the size of the works reinforce each other.«

The selection of works in the exhibition offers a unique insight into the conditions of art making and allow a viewer to share the dialogue between the two artists.

Deborah Keller, Häusler Contemporary

Richard Allen Morris did not attend an art academy, but he still was presented in several University exhibition spaces as early as in the 1970s. These presentations were followed by solo shows in American galleries and participations in numerous group exhibitions but it was not until the two major retrospectives in 2004/05 at Museum Haus Lange in Krefeld and at Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego that his work got the wide attention it deserves. His paintings are now part of important collections such as Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, and the Daros Collection, Zürich.

David Reed's works have been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries all over the world, most recently in 2015 at Museum Haus Lange in Krefeld and – along with Mary Heilmann – at Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin. Major international collections own paintings by David Reed, for example the Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Wien, and Kunstmuseum St.Gallen.

Isabell Ertl will be happy to answer your questions:
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