

GLÜCKLICH IST DIESER ORT!

Manuela Cossalter
Emil Michael Klein
Sean Völlmin

18 November 2016 - 21 January 2017

Opening: Thursday 17 November, 18.30

On view: Monday - Friday 10.30-17.30; Saturday 14.00-18.00, free of charge

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Istituto Svizzero presents „Glücklich ist dieser Ort!“ a group show of the swiss artists **Manuela Cossalter, Emil Michael Klein** and **Sean Völlmin**. The exhibition which Emil Michael Klein has helped to imagine is identifying points of contact between the practice of the three artists.

WHITE FISH

While we usually amuse ourselves by attributing totemic animal figures to ourselves in an attempt to describe our behaviors and our typical traits, there are few animals we truly appreciate. In an effect of transposition, we interpret the scale of values of the projections of our temperament. We are all proud, beautiful, clever, faithful, free... and very rarely are we common, without real qualities.

Though with a slight delay, the exhibition presents a vigorous realization that consists in asserting that one wants to be simply an artist, nothing else. Because if **Manuela Cossalter, Emil Michael Klein** and **Sean Völlmin** have something in common, it is precisely the desire to make their artistic practice into a vital element. As if it were possible to immerse oneself in this fluid space that creation can be, without trying to buck the current or to grab a branch, but moving naturally, easily, like a white fish.

In the paintings of **Emil Michael Klein** the pleasure of the gesture of painting is released, light, without complexes, but also without seductions. The hues close ranks, besieging, striving to subjugate the space of the painting. Lines become successive layers and structure. The artist seeks pleasant playful interspaces to authorize himself to paint, again and again. In **Sean Völlmin** the image dissolves and becomes color. The tones accumulate and become paint. Transparency seems to gradually be tinged, to suspend the subject in its condition as a mental, at times disquieting image. While **Manuela Cossalter** tames her everyday existence, fixing familiar animals in ceramics that bear the imprint of the idealized attributes of their characters, unleashing *demodés* domestic phantoms from their settings.

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All three remind us that the places of exhibitions are like fragments of a natural environment. The works find an intermediate space there, between the artist's studio and the domestic character of a collection. As for the artists, like white fish, they never tire of seeking a bit of rest, before the current drags them elsewhere.

Samuel Gross

Manuela Cossalter (1990) lives and works in Zurich. After attending the F + F Schule für Kunst und Design in Zurich, she studied visual arts at the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst in Basel. She has taken part in the group shows *Basis Exhibition 2016 1+2 Jahr Bachelor* and *Non-Paper Prints* at FHNW Basel, *Lockerer Denken* at Kunsthaus Baselland and *Irma La Douce Revisited* at Penthouse Gallery in Zurich.

Emil Michael Klein (1982) lives and works in Zurich. He attended the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst in Basel and then took a Master's in Visual Arts at the Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne. His work has recently been featured in solo shows at Galleria Federico Vavassori, Milan (representing the artist in Italy), Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich, and Gaudel de Stampa, Paris, and in group shows including *Undisturbed Solitude* at Kunsthaus Hamburg (curated by Chus Martínez), and *Europe, Europe* at the Astrup Fearnley Museet in Oslo (curated by Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Thomas Boutoux and Gunnar B. Kvaran).

Sean Völlmin (1988), raised in Biel, took the preliminary course and then the course of specialization in graphic design at the Schule für Gestaltung in Biel and Bern. After a long period abroad, he went to Basel to study art. He focused at first on drawing, photography and filmmaking, while today he works mostly on painting. His main objective is the combination and composition of elements, colors and transparencies, in both abstract and realistic works.

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