

Markus Saile

*Drifters*

**Opening Tuesday October 7, 2025 | 6-9 pm**

October 7 > November 15, 2025

z2o Project | Via Baccio Pontelli 16, 1st Floor | Rome

z2o Project is pleased to present *Drifters*, the first solo exhibition of Markus Saile (Stuttgart, Germany, 1981) at its space in Via Baccio Pontelli 16 in collaboration with A+B gallery, Brescia.

Drifters are persons or entities that move through space, settling themselves from time to time without having a clear goal or intention. Nevertheless, they are characterized by a certain sense of self-determination, especially when you consider their various cinematic incarnations. In painting, the term may refer to forms and gestures that appear to drift through pictorial space, as well as to the paintings themselves as objects that settle themselves in different exhibition spaces and various constellations.

For *Drifters*, Markus Saile developed an installative hanging of new works. These relate to the specific physical space and its characteristics. The relationship between the architecture, the formats of the supports and the spatial parameters within the images is crucial here, as are marginal areas and edges, empty spaces and overlaps. These elements establish references between the individual works. The paintings create an open syntax of fragments and a poetic space of references.

The Pipe paintings are a conceptual group of works by the artist that intervene in this field of action in a specific way. With their elongated format, they explore the transition between picture and object. 'Pipe' is the English name for the vertical bar punctuation mark that is now popular in informal writing practices within digital culture. At its most general, the symbol indicates the end of one section and the start of another. It is a caesura — a cut — but one which simultaneously reveals a connection.

“Saile's works convene the space of painting, in a subtle interplay between the space where they are situated, the space they represent, and the space they construct in dialogue with architecture”. Thus, “the in-between space, in between the paintings, creates a political space where we stand and move, as viewers. Pictorial problems can be understood as architectural problems, in the sense of a socio-political structure. Beyond the in-situ and the context, it is an investigation into painting in volume, the depth of the surface, and the extension of this practice into a performative field of action.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Marie de Brugerolle, “*Edge to Edge*”, Mai 36 Galerie, 2022.

The paintings are created in a process of overlapping layers of paint and thin veils that reveal their material life. Paint deposits accumulate at the edges of the supports, revealing the temporal structure of the painting process like the annual rings of a tree and lending them an object-like quality. Gestural interventions dramatize the pictorial space in the sense of a stage situation. The conceptual work with the painterly gesture thus can be understood as a kind of performative re-enactment of its historical, temporal and spatial potentials.

In the painting process, Saile creates volume with a brush movement, similar to the extrusion process in 3D programs. Instead of joining a series of dots to form a line, as is the case with perspective drawing, a brushstroke creates a plane in a single gesture. In one group of works, these shapes float in front of almost neutral spaces, as if they were cut out, or: like drifters. This reminds of what has been described as the neo-baroque logic of decentered digital space, where boundaries are constantly rewritten and the viewers are being involved into the event of the picture, its foldings and unfoldings.<sup>2</sup>

#### BIO:

Markus Saile's (Stuttgart, Germany 1981) work was featured in numerous exhibitions at galleries and museums. Recent solo exhibitions include: *objects in the mirror* (with Alwin Lay), Artothek, Cologne, *Pipes*, Galeria Scala, Poznan, *Everything Folds*, DREI, Cologne, *EDGE TO EDGE*, Mai 36 Galerie, Zürich, *Scala*, A+B Gallery, Brescia, *separate | related*, NAK Neuer Aachener Kunstverein and *Das und gleicht dem Chamäleon*, Galerie Markus Lüttgen, Düsseldorf. He was part of the painting survey show "Jetzt! Junge Malerei in Deutschland" at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Museum Wiesbaden, Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz-Museum Gunzenhauser and Deichtorhallen Hamburg. His works were featured in numerous groupshows like at Paik Hae Young Gallery, Seoul, Bel Amis, Los Angeles, Museo Licini, Ascoli Piceno, Italy, Pinacoteca Emilio Notte, Ceglie Messapica, Italy, Markus Lüttgen, Düsseldorf, Temporary Gallery, Cologne, Galerie Crone, Vienna, Mai 36, Zürich, Arp Museum Rolandseck, Strabag Kunstforum Vienna, DREI, Cologne and RECEPTION, Berlin.

#### INFO:

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Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday | 12 - 7 PM

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<sup>2</sup> See Nicolas Largier, „Die Falte. Barocke Figuration bei Gilles Deleuze und Walter Benjamin.“, in: Frühe Neuzeit – Späte Neuzeit. Phänomene der Wiederkehr in Literaturen und Künsten ab 1970, Berlin 2011, pp. 218-219.