



ANDRÉ BUTZER

22 June—6 August 2007

André Butzer (b. 1973, Stuttgart, Germany) is internationally recognized for his large-scale expressionist paintings, characterized by vividly colored canvases and thick, tactile layers of paint. Often described as “science-fiction expressionism,” Butzer’s distinctive visual language balances on the edge between figuration and abstraction.

In 1996, Butzer co-founded the independent, self-governed Akademie Isotrop in Hamburg—a “revolutionary” artist collective that operated outside institutional frameworks. Its members educated one another through collaborative practice, organized public talks, held round tables and debates, published a magazine, and curated exhibitions across Germany,

Austria, and England. Active until 2000, the Akademie played a formative role in shaping the contemporary art milieu and the development of its members’ artistic practices.

Butzer’s artistic approach drew significantly from this collective experience. Early on, he engaged with the legacy of post-non-objectivism, as seen in the works of Albert Oehlen and Asger Jorn, advocating for the “renewal” of abstract painting. In his intense and often confrontational paintings, Butzer combines archetypal imagery with vivid historical references, amplifying the visual impact through a system of recurring pictorial signs. The distorted facial fragments and grimacing masks with hollow eyes recall early 20th-century

caricature, while echoing the existential tension of Edvard Munch's *The Scream* and the raw dynamism of Willem de Kooning's *Woman* series.

The immediacy of Butzer's paintings is intensified by his gestural brushwork and frequent use of fluorescent pigments. In his monochromatic series, he applies scattered, sharp strokes across the canvas, evoking the dynamic abstraction found in the work of Joan Mitchell.

"Important is only the image. There is no process or progress. There is only entity, essence, destruction, endless annihilation and love."

— André Butzer

Selected Exhibitions:

Oldenburger Kunstverein, Oldenburg, Germany
Carré d'art – Musée d'Art Contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France
Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany
Kunsthalle Hamburg, Germany
Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany
Centro Cultural Andratx, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany
Kölischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
Museum Kornelimünster, Aachen, Germany
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Kunstakademie, Bergen, Norway

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