

DIRIMART

PRESS RELEASE

JAN ZÖLLER'S EXHIBITION *CONVERSATION WITH THE OTHERS* AT DİRİMART PERA

Conversation With the Others

Jan Zöller

Curated by: Martin Engler

Opening: 27 November 2024

Venue: Dirimart Pera

The exhibition can be visited from 27 November to 29 December 2024. (Except on Mondays.)

Conversation With the Others is an invitation to a dialogue between the artwork and the viewer.

ISTANBUL, 13 November 2024—Dirimart is pleased to present *Conversation With the Others*, the first solo exhibition of German artist Jan Zöller at Dirimart Pera, curated by Martin Engler. The exhibition also marks Zöller's debut in Istanbul, introducing his exploratory artistic approach, which never sides with either abstraction or figuration. Through a series of paintings, Zöller challenges the traditional boundaries of visual narrative.

Jan Zöller is known for his versatile and unorthodox approach to painting, blending abstraction and figuration. Zöller's birdlike figures are central to the exhibition, depicted as humanlike entities with trousers, shoes, and distinct beaks. These characters engage in chaotic polyphonies and blend narratives within layers of colour and form, encouraging viewers to engage in a visual dialogue that reveals deeper insights the longer one observes recur across multiple works. With specially designed wheeled seats that enable visitors to engage more deeply with the paintings, fostering both physical and mental exploration of Zöller's imaginative worlds, Zöller's interactive installations further enrich the experience.

The exhibition demonstrates Zöller's ability to bridge contrasting visual themes, from airy lightness to the complex depths of darker tones. Playful yet profound, the paintings invite the audience into a narrative exploration where abstract landscapes and figurative elements coexist and converse.

Conversation With the Others can be visited at Dirimart Pera from 27 November to 29 December 2024, drawing viewers into wandering encounters.



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Jan Zöllner (b. 1992, Haslach im Kinzigtal) studied under the supervision of Leni Hoffmann and Marijke van Warmerdam at the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, and of under Jean Marc Bustamante at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris. His solo exhibitions include *Nothing else changes it just rearranges*, Robert Grunenberg, Berlin (2024); *For every thing that is shown, some thing is hidden* at Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Friedrichshafen (2022); *Will ich nichts verpassen, schließe ich die Augen* at Galerie Heinrich Ehrhardt, Madrid (2022); *Keine Zeit zum Baden* at Städtische Galerie, Ostfildern (2021); *It's better to experience things, than to talk about them*, Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe (2020) and *Possibly there's a possibility that everything is possible*, Robert Grunenberg, Berlin (2019). Among his selected group exhibitions are *die Welt ist noch auf einen Abend mein*, Galeria Ehrhardt Florez, Madrid (2023); *There is no sea but the sea*, Meyer Riegger, Karlsruhe (2022); *Ohne Titel. Junge Malerei aus Süddeutschland und der Deutschschweiz*, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen (2022); *6 + 3 = 1*, Galerie Barbara Seiler, Zurich (2021); *Paranoia Strikes Deep*, Osnova, Moscow (2020) and *C'est quand demain*, Coherent, Brussels (2018). In 2017, he won the Postgraduate Award from the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, followed by the 24th Federal Art Students Award from Bundeskunsthalle Bonn in 2018, and a working grant from Stiftung Kunstfonds in 2021. Jan Zöllner lives and works in Karlsruhe and Canale.

Dr. Martin Engler (b. 1968, Freiburg im Breisgau) has been an independent curator, author, and critic since 1996. He lectured at various German and European institutions, including Goethe University and Städelschule, Frankfurt and the University of Bern, Switzerland, since 1997. From 2002 to 2008, Engler was a curator at Kunstverein Hannover, followed by his role as the Head of Contemporary Art at the Städel Museum from 2008 to 2022. Since 2023, he has been a Scientific Consultant at Villa Grisebach, Berlin. In addition to his writings on avant-garde theory, the interplay between painting and photography, figurative painting of the 1980s, and the photography of the Becher class, Dr. Engler authored monographic catalogues on artists such as John Armleder, John Baldessari, Leigh Bowery, Donald Judd, Piero Manzoni, Adrian Paci, Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Peter Roehr, Victor Vasarely, and Corinne Wasmuht. Dr. Martin Engler lives and works in Berlin am Main.

