

Painted Patterns

Stefan Bressel

Regionalgalerie Suedhessen im Regierungspraesidium Darmstadt, 2005

32 pages, 18 Colour and 8 B&W reproductions. No ISBN

25 x 19 cm German/English text. Softcover

The work of German artist Stefan Bressel is focused on ornament/pattern and repetition with the eyes of a painter, looking closer on the terms and their distinction. Technically repetition for him can mean redoing his own paintings or working on two paintings at the same time by repeating each brushstroke. But it comprises also copying/mocking a found structure, story or object in a sense of consideration and appropriation thus transforming the find into an image. As repetition is one of the major principles of ornament, Stefan Bressel's work is continuously questioning the borderline between image and pattern by either pushing an ornament towards becoming a painting/image or - vice versa - using structures of repetition and repeat within a painting to ornamentize it. The result is a whole range of heterogeneous works like two-piece canvases, collages and photographs, as well as wall covering drawings and three-dimensional objects, e.g. a painted door or a painted table (with dedication to R.Artschwager). In shows, paintings and three-dimensional pieces are often combined with site-specific wall drawings or murals shifting the concept of a painting exhibition towards installation.

The book at hand has been developed in close collaboration between the artist and designers of wuffdesign/desres (www.desres.de) and resulted in a hybrid of catalogue and artist book. „Painted Patterns“ has been awarded by the DDC (German Design Club) for its design and shows nice details like a removable book jacket with a patterned inside printed in fluorescent colours - related to a recent wall piece completed in a baroque pavillion.

The two texts accompanying the book are written by Hamburg and Frankfurt/Giessen based curators Meike Behm and Markus Lepper.