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## **A Mannheim painter lord as guest**

**Westend „Splashing Colours“:** Dietmar Brixy shows colourful oil paintings in the gallery of Barbara von Stechow

*by Edda Rössler*

What do painting princes like Titian, Rubens and Raphael have in common? Far more than pomp and social recognition. They were masters of their trade, maintained a spacious studio with assistants and created a stately environment that inspired them. If we follow this scale, then the Frankfurt gallery owner Barbara von Stechow presents in the current exhibition "Splashing Colours" works by a contemporary painter prince, namely Dietmar Brixy.

The Mannheim-born artist Dietmar Brixy (59), known by many as "Brixy", comes from a humble background and over the years has gained recognition and fortune simply by selling his paintings. For 20 years he has lived in a disused Mannheim hydroelectric power station, which he lovingly and lavishly transformed into a total work of art with a garden. He is the artistic motor of a small staff of seven employees.

Barbara von Stechow is taken with both - with the "Gesamtkunstwerk Brixy", his residence in the old pumping station in Neckarau, but above all with his picturesque oeuvre. She has been observing his work for five years now, two years ago she contacted him and decided to grant him this important "exhibition slot". "If I'm going to present him, I want to do so at the best possible time, at the start of the season in Frankfurt's galleries," she says. She is enthusiastic about his "unbelievably fascinating technique", the multi-layered application, in which the thick, pasty application of the oil paint onto the canvas plays an important role.

Brixy studied sculpture at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe from 1985 to 1991, but soon turned to painting. A certain affinity to sculptural design is still present in his works. This can also be seen in his painting technique, a part of the oil paint is applied by hand. 30 of his oil paintings, smaller and larger formats, can be seen. Many of them he shows for the first time, even if they are dated 2018. He collected everything in a depot for the Frankfurt exhibition and left the selection to his gallery owner.

Art fans can look forward to paintings with a sparkling, flowing and expressive colourfulness. Inventive and always full of new nuances, he quotes an abstract visual language in which a warm, powerful colour palette with many ornaments sets the tone. Lines circle around each other, suddenly transforming into landscapes, only to finally provide a perfect setting for a theatre backdrop. Everything flows into and out of each other and still has a firm hold.

Brixy's paintings are reminiscent of natural processes and so it is not surprising that the painter emphasises how important the view from his studio is to him to the garden with all its shimmering flora and fauna. This is a true epicurean of colour and material and invites us to wallow in the power of the image.