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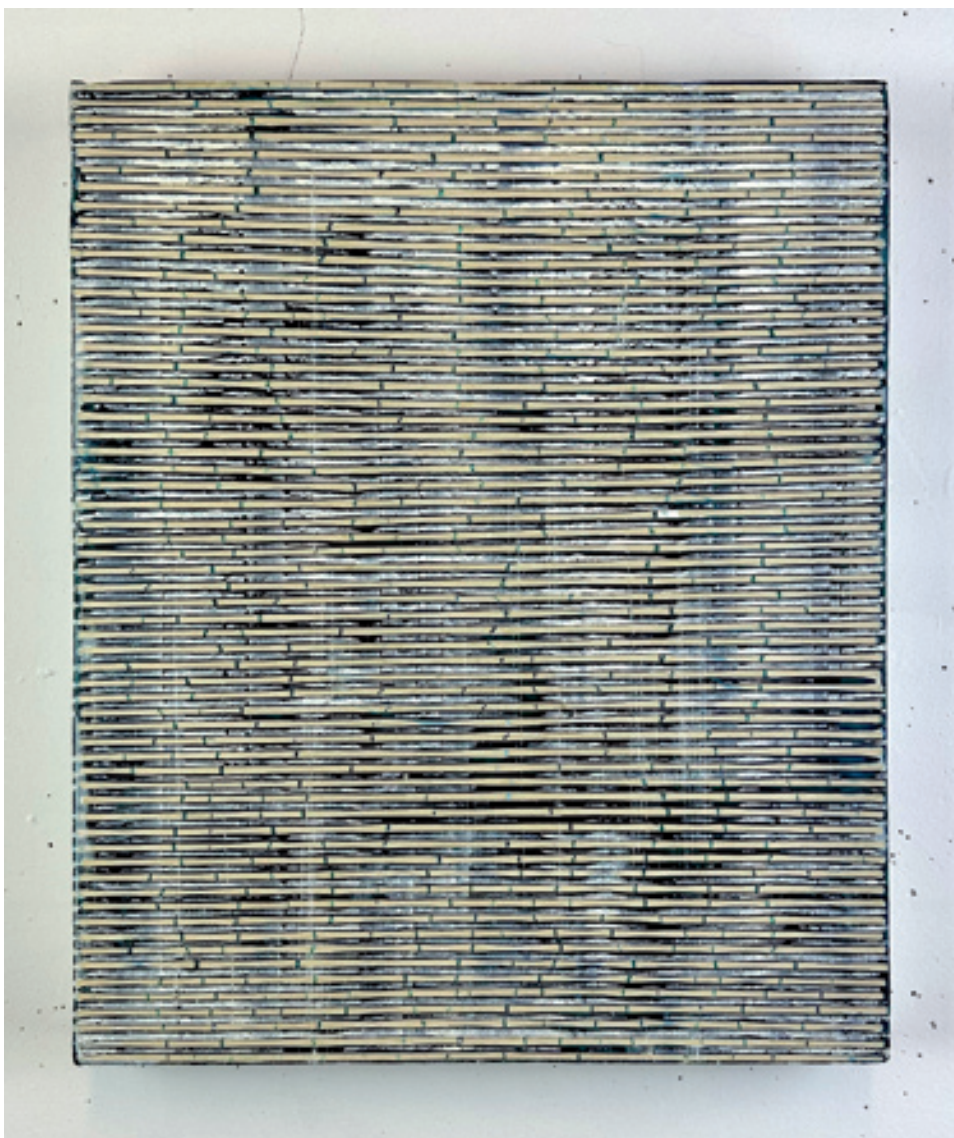
SPECIAL PRINT

MICHAEL
GRIESBECK
THE SENSUAL
ESSENCE

written by
Cristina Streckfuss

Perspectives of appreciation - an artistic homage to the shoe, pasta and the puristic deep view full of joie de vivre in a time of upheaval

Michael Griesbeck: Searching for the sensual essence



*Michael Griesbeck; Noodles to go Nr. 4 - UDON; mixed-media on canvas,
46 cm x 38 cm, 2023, back signed with original packaging
© Michael Griesbeck*

Michael Griesbeck is on the trail of substance and its beautiful transience in many facets. „For me, art is a wonderful form of dialogue,

a kind of universal bridge in this incredibly encrusted world. But I also want to leave my own footprints.“ - he says, and does! Two

souls seem to reside in his chest in more ways than one. While his life as a pupil, student as well as his professional career developed rapidly in Munich, he spent every weekend from the age of three in Murnau, in the Blaue Land, the region in whose changing bluish colors and moods of light Franz Marc, Gabriele Münter and Wassily Kandinsky once found decelerated inspiration, and where the artists' group „Der Blaue Reiter“ was formed. But not only these two highly different „worlds“, lived over decades, that shape his view and his work, providing him with new perspectives again and again. Whoever meets him notices a high degree of sensitivity, the empathic philosopher, and whoever then learns that he has been acting for decades as the technical director of a successful Munich project development company may be surprised. But perhaps it is precisely this constant wandering between contrary worlds that grounds Michael Griesbeck, that gives him creative wings. He is particularly fond of experimental as well as complex material works. Insatiable curiosity makes him go further and further with the discipline of the athlete and look deeper, on the trail of discoveries and hidden values. And especially for ways and forms of expression to make these values visible.

His „Noodles“ are a homage to the enjoyment of pasta, this wonderful kitchen instance, which - discovered 4000 years ago in China - is probably that „ingredient“ that always fits and that definitely everyone loves. In a technically as well as creatively elaborate process, Michael Griesbeck creates unique aesthetic works with representatives of their kind, udon, spaghetti, somen or rigatoni embedded in



Michael Griesbeck; *BARILLA ART (detail)*; mixed media sanded on Canvas,
80 cm x 100 cm © Michael Griesbeck

special layers - to name just a few of the wonderful protagonists to be transformed. Somewhat reminiscent of Leo Erb's exhibits, and as straightforward and clear as his works may look, their creation is complex. In finely balanced skills in playing with and balancing moisture and brittleness, reduction and application, periods of drying and depth of sanding, they emerge to be - after repeated exposures - carefully embedded again in further glazing layers of paint. Michael Griesbeck's passionate work, executed with masterly precision and care, is equal to the highest culinary arts in its dedication, testing, intuition and patience - and is then repeated at least as often until the multidimensional unicum on the canvas amazes and delights art lovers - unique, obvious and good.

Michael Griesbeck dedicates himself to an entirely different subject with as much depth and respect as his „Noodles“ - it is the shoe, that much-cited object of passion as well as collecting passion between sexiness and function. He is certainly provocative, but what

at first glance may seem a little lascivious and even cheeky is rather a rebellion against the loss of aesthetic standards and may make us



Michael Griesbeck; *SOMEN – a game in the wind (detail)*, mixed-media on canvas,
100 cm x 100 cm; 2021 © Michael Griesbeck

think of the unforgotten Karl Lagerfeld and his quote about the „non-leg-clothes“ of our time. „Shoetime“ is then also an interpretation of the demand for aesthetics, a missing quality of life, a transformation of lost emotions and an expressive response to the loss of *joie de vivre* - also, but not only - caused by Corona. With this series of works, Michael Griesbeck wants to direct our attention to what we may be missing, the beautiful, the aesthetic, perhaps in the sense of Helmut Newton, but going much further. Against this background, the artist provocatively uses specimens that are indeed also of high monetary value, as a catalysing stylistic device, showing value in non-value on a meta-level, but at the same time performing and delivering an ode to the high heel, a metaphor, provocative, sexy, and intentionally not without controversy. Aware of the options, but also of the polarising effect, he stages and uses it, almost like a sacrilege. In action painting technique, Michael Griesbeck puts colour on canvas - with the Heel! And manages, precisely through this „use“ in a conscious, idiosyncratic way, to transform the shoe itself into a work of art at the same time. He, the shoe, is not reduced, but on the



Michael Griesbeck; So Kate No.7; mixed-media on canvas, installation with shoe, 120 cm x 100 cm, 2022 © Michael Griesbeck

contrary, he is staged and respectfully elevated to an independent sculpture. See for yourself the installation „So Kate No. 7“ ... Something is wrong with ZARA - this is the title of another of Griesbeck's „Shoetime“ works. But what is wrong with this work? The „mistake“, however, is by no means to be found in composition, colour tone or the brand, but rather Michael Griesbeck uses a technique or embossing of the painting background here that has so far been reserved for his series „under construction“, namely a basic structure using taut ropes. The detail photo shown from the work „Pleaser“ also shows not only the sensual density of the paint application, but also here this „underground“ was chosen. His mostly informal works not infrequently

show the combination of natural processes with technical, deterministic colour and design possibilities. „I understand my paintings as a kind of symbiosis and transformation, in which I combine natural elements, as well as processes whose results can hardly be influenced, with stylistic devices from the hectic, straightforward city life, to simultaneously derive at the same time my own recognisable signature from them.“ With his series of works „under construction“, which is coveted by collectors and can also be found as “art in the company”, Michael Griesbeck creates expressive exhibits in the very best state-of-the-art action painting tradition. In a kind of simulation of construction steel mats, which he prepares, spatulas and „rusts“ through ropes stretched

on canvas - with intuitive subtlety and great colour tone, these works are created - sometimes on the roof of a skyscraper accompanied by the finest live music, sometimes in a hotel, on a construction site or in a swimming pool. His artistic view of building technology and the characteristics and rapid developments of the real estate market opens up a change of perspective and contemplation at the same time thanks to an entirely unique, exciting image structure, created with an idiosyncratic and unique texture. A puristic counterpoint to the colourful works of the series „under construction“ is provided by his series of works Rope, which is also based on firmly anchored ropes. In this series, the intention is to convey tranquillity. At the same time, the homogeneous, three-dimensional lines, as well as the purist arrangement, radiate a kind of „unconscious“ invitation to rest, which is immediately perceived and accepted by the viewer, in anthracite and grey as well as white, the classic colour of purism.

Michael Griesbeck cites sensual curiosity as the driving force of his artistic practice. Designed in thematic series, each with a central statement, Griesbeck's distinctive compositions are most often translated into acrylic, oil, lacquer, and collage on canvas. Michael Griesbeck will also be represented in 2023 at ARTMUC, initiated and curated by Raiko Schwalbe, with a stand



Michael Griesbeck; Please-r, detail format 60 cm x 60 cm; 2023 © Michael Griesbeck

Further Information:<https://michael-griesbeck.com>

in Munich from October 27 to 29, but various exhibitions in Asia are also in close discussion. If you would like to delve deeper into the painting style and perhaps also the ideas and motives of the philosophically sensual Michael Griesbeck beforehand, a person and artist with depth, respectful far-sightedness, down-to-earth ness and inimitable sensitivity for the „value in value“, he provides insightful as well as aesthetically splendid and exciting



Michael Griesbeck in action; Foto: Daggi L.



*Michael Griesbeck; under construction -
A Splash hits the blue; mixed-media on canvas, 140 cm x 140 cm,
2019 © Michael Griesbeck*

video clips on his homepage „from the pen“ of Michael Bieser, a friend of the artist and extraordinary filmmaker. Profound insight, subtlety, curiosity and pure joie de vivre in the here and now. A wonderful homage to transformative value in value and aesthetics at the same time. Chapeau!

Cristina Streckfuss



*Michael Griesbeck; A little walk through
Kyoto. Rope anthracite 144,
120 x 120 cm; 2019
© Michael Griesbeck*

MICHAEL GRIESBECK SHOETIME

LOOK HERE:
MAKING OF ABOVE
THE ROOFS OF MUNICH



Michael Griesbeck; SHOETIME: HOMAGE TO LOUBOUTIN | mixed-media on canvas |
160 cm x 120 cm | 2021 © Michael Griesbeck
<https://michael-griesbeck.com>

