update #07
life changed - i changed my life
24/03/2019

Kristina von Bülow. It is an honour and a pleasure to be writing the first text of this new string of newsletters about Falk’s new artistic concept. Since he commissioned me to write a description of his series interform hamburg in 2007, I have created quite a number of bilingual texts about his work. When I initialised my exhibition series Novokolorit Privatformat in 2016, it came as a natural choice to develop the first concept around Falk, despite ample options in a diverse international network of artists. The task for this text here consisted in selecting works from the old and the new conceptual periods and to thereby exemplify Falk’s change of concept.

Falk’s radical artistic reinvention as fbrvt in 2018 was mainly about drawing a distinct line between the past and the future and to find a fundamentally rethought approach to his concept. In doing so, what had been previously created was on the one hand not to be negated, but on the other hand the contrast of concepts was to be clearly emphasised. I think this becomes well discernible when we have a look at works from the older series textur in comparison with the two current diptychs life changed - i changed my life.
One commonality of both conceptual periods is the increase in content-wise complexity by visual reduction. To the extent to which planes and shapes on the visible surface are reduced, new coded dimensions of significance emerge behind it. In the works of the series textur, Falk had abstracted textual description of persons by means of digital techniques to such a high degree that the texts de facto continue to be visible but completely withdraw from legibility and gradually seem to dissolve into a kind of background noise. Something similar happens in life changed - i changed my life. The simple white-on-black statement "life changed", connoting an external change that is not influenceable and to be passively accepted, is juxtaposed by the statement "i changed my life", in mirrored typeface with opposite colouration, which describes an active influencing of external conditions. This mirroring is continued in an illegible version that is reduced to chunky pixels, not disclosing its significance on the visible plane.
Similar to a ciphered linguistic code, these squares placed on squares attain a multi-layeredness of content by means of their visual reduction. This is a core aspect connecting both of Falk's conceptual periods. A differentiating characteristic is the increased compression of the imagery with concepts explicitly set around the individual in interplay with the external world. Besides the conscious application of numbers, antipodes are a defining element in Falk's artistic self-perception. His work draws its energy of content and aesthetics from a systematic symbiosis of opposites.

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