

## Press Release

### Gottfried Ecker and Robert Bodnar Exhibitions

April 7 to May 14, 2016

## Poussins Bühne

Gottfried Ecker

Objects, paintings and drawings



O. T., (Poussins Bühne), 2015  
Graphite, Watercolor on paper, 23 x 48,7 cm  
© Gottfried Ecker

Artist **Gottfried Ecker** lives in Vienna and has been making paintings and sculptures for quite some time now.

Like Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, and Markus Lüpertz before him, Gottfried Ecker is fascinated by Nicolas Poussin, one of the most important painters of the French Baroque. Poussin developed figural compositions using wax models that he arranged inside a peepshow box in order to visualize spatial constellations, size ratios, buildings, and perspectives.

With the sculpture titled *Poussins Bühne* (Poussin's Stage), Ecker has created a modified dollhouse kitchen, a similar situation built up using constellations of figures and objects, which he goes on to paint in the second step. The etchings and watercolors in the *Kopfschleuder* (Head Shooter) series are the results of the spatial and staged situations that have been typical of Ecker's work since 2002.

The fact that Ecker has studied Poussin's color palate in detail can be seen in a hands-on sculpture that lets visitors create their own personal color combinations. Poussin's mythological, allegorical, and religious themes reappear in Ecker's ceramic work *Gänse* (Geese) and the wooden sculptures of the *Sarkophage* (Sarcophagi) series, in reference to Poussin's numerous drawings of antique sarcophagi and reliefs. Multi-part canvas wall installations in different sizes and wooden sculptures play with Poussin's lighting moods.

Ecker's multifaceted art pieces create highly exciting image spaces. He breaks Poussin's idealized landscapes and heroic scenes down to a poetic and sometimes also humorous and playful level, putting the academically and formally influenced French painter's work into a whole new light.

*Hartwig Knack*

As part of the KUNST IM KABINETT exhibition series, we present

## Okkultationen und Transits

Robert Bodnar



Robert Bodnar, Okkultation (Fig. 1) – Studie, 2015  
Photolithography on fiberglass panel, 51 x 51 cm  
© Robert Bodnar

Photography and video are the preferred media of **Robert Bodnar**, who studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts under Eva Schlegel, Matthias Herrmann, and Harun Farocki. Born in Prague, Bodnar's interest in celestial mechanics has been growing for about four years now. His work is the result of an intense fascination with astronomical phenomena, physical and scientific theories, and the observation of current research activities in the field.

Bodnar's art reflects the media, continually testing the limits of film and photography, striving to add new levels to the genre. Aware that sunlight is the primary source of photography, the thing that makes it possible, and fascinated by the overlapping of celestial bodies, he made a photo series documenting the moment of the solar eclipse of the Earth's northern hemisphere in 2015.

In his new work, titled *Himmelsgewölbe* (Sky Domes), recording celestial phenomena is once again the focus. Bodnar has developed a polar coordinate system analogous to scientific astronomical processes and uses it to draw the paths of suns. It almost appears as if the artist is trying to transform the unimaginable energy of planetary motion and solar systems from their original chaotic state into precise artistic order.

*Hartwig Knack*

**Exhibition Opening:** Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 7 to 9 p.m.

Hartwig Knack will speak at the exhibition.

**Location:** Grünangergasse 8, 1010 Wien

**Opening hours:** Tues – Fri from 12 to 6 p.m., Sat from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Exhibition duration:** April 7 to May 14, 2016

We are looking forward to your visit and kindly request an R.S.V.P. or article!

For more information: Roswitha Straihammer, [straihammer@galerie-sunds.at](mailto:straihammer@galerie-sunds.at)

Press photos: [www.galerie-sunds.at/](http://www.galerie-sunds.at/) available for free use ONLY in direct connection to reporting on the exhibitions.