

Alain Biltereyst

Hidden in Plain Sight

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Press release



Alain Biltereyst, *Untitled / XL-066-4*, 2022, acrylic on plywood, 118 x 87,5 cm

Xippas Geneva

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1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Tuesday to Friday:
10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm
Saturday: 12pm to 5pm

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Opening January 12 from 6 to 9pm on the occasion of La Nuit des Bains.

The Xippas Gallery in Geneva is pleased to present “Hidden in Plain Sight” a solo show by Alain Biltereyst. The Belgian artist is exhibiting a series of abstract paintings with simple and pure geometric compositions. His work explore the poetry of form according to the principle of “less is more”. They reflect and reflect on the legacy of modernism. These are not, however, geometrical utopias devoid of meaning. Lines and rectangles, grids and squares juxtaposed in Alain Biltereyst’s works are embedded in a context. Fragments of the modern world appear between the lines of his abstract vocabulary. Here and there, the viewer can discern commercial symbols, logos tattooed on the bodies of trucks, typographical designs printed on billboards or packaging. These hidden references combine with abstract and geometrical forms, as if to remind us that in the 70s and 80s, graphic designers turned toward abstract art for fresh and modern inspiration. With Alain Biltereyst, it is the other way around: his art refers to and draws its inspiration from graphic design. In this way, he completes a cycle.

For Alain Biltereyst, the outside world is the starting point. He finds graphic elements in the street which seem both familiar and incongruous, ordinary and curious: the aliens of abstraction omnipresent in our daily life – the «goings-on». During his walks, he seeks them out and photographs them. These designs are then carefully studied and manipulated – reframed, rotated and flipped – until a balance is found, both in terms of form and composition.

The artist works on wooden panels. He sometimes paints over them several times, making the forms registered on the surface disappear, following the example of trucks that are regularly repainted to cover up the old logos printed on their skin. However, in his work, unlike vehicle painting, the industrial aspect is toned down. His lines vibrate, as if they were contradicting the cold and repetitive outputs of assembly lines – they are living and almost human. His paintings are open to the outside world, bringing the street into abstraction. Like mirrors, they show us the image of the world, reflecting its goings-on.

Born in 1965, Alain Biltereyst lives and works in Elingen, Belgium.

His work featured in institutional shows: Museum Voorlinden, Netherlands and Rønnebæksholm, Denmark (2018), Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, Netherlands (2017), Hugo Voeten Art Centre, Herentals, Belgium (2016), PARK Platform for visual arts, Tilburg, Netherlands (2014), CCNOA, Brussels, Belgium (2012). Alain Biltereyst is represented by Xippas, Baronian Xippas (Brussels) and Jack Hanley gallery (NYC).