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Florian Slotawa

Grammatik einfach erklärt

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Exactly 100 years ago, Wassily Kandinsky published his manifesto *Punkt und Linie zu Fläche*, a foundational text of abstract art. In this systematic analysis of graphic means—still regarded today as a cornerstone of abstraction—Kandinsky articulated the idea of a grammar of art: point, line, and plane as elements of a universal language that does not represent visible reality, but instead addresses inner states directly, comparable to music or dance.

In his fourth exhibition at von Bartha, Florian Slotawa (b. 1972 in Rosenheim, DE) takes this model as a point of reference. In *Grammatik einfach erklärt*, the traditional canvas is replaced by slatted frames and trays that function as planes. Slats and rods operate as lines, while rubber elements act as points, creating rhythm and structure. The standardized dimensions, colors, and materials of these everyday objects establish a clearly defined framework within which Slotawa works. Characteristic of his practice, he draws from the everyday, foregrounding its inherent aesthetic potential. Through minimal interventions, the exhibition unfolds as a system that can be read like a musical notation.

The objects employed—whether canisters, trays, or slatted frames—remain fully recognizable and do not assume a representational function. For Slotawa, art is not a separate realm but embedded in the world at hand.

Since the beginning of his artistic practice, Slotawa has been concerned with the question of how art can emerge from everyday objects. Visitors immediately recognize the materials on view, yet their displacement from familiar contexts, their recombination, and subtle modification produce a shift in perception. Within this displacement, a distinct visual language takes shape. A diagonal line—following Kandinsky—suggests dynamism and movement, while vertical slats evoke tension and warmth. The rubber elements operate as points positioned along the edge of the plane, articulating pauses and accents within the compositional field.

With *Grammatik einfach erklärt*, Slotawa proposes a kind of handbook: an invitation to reconsider the everyday, to attend to the aesthetic potential of the banal, and to open up a renewed approach to abstract art.

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