

**JOACHIM GROMMEK –
Without a sense of taste sometimes it works out quite well
11 September – 7 November 2015**

The first solo exhibition by Joachim Grommek at taubert contemporary presents works on chipboard and aluminum and includes a new series of works which will be presented here for the first time.

On the unusual materials, sticky tape and fragmented negative molds made of coloured adhesive film can be seen alongside the surfaces of the materials not often used in art. However, contrary to what the first impression suggests, these are not collages, but paintings. On the white-primed chipboards, Joachim Grommek paints sections which look exactly like untreated surface structures of the particle board. Thus, the phenomenon of surface is examined both literally and metaphorically: in their concrete physical characteristics, and as a symbol of mechanisms and limitations of human perception and cognitive processes.

Traditionally, the painted imitation of certain surfaces serves to create the illusion of materials of a higher quality, such as marble or granite. Joachim Grommek, on the other hand, paints white-primed chipboard to resemble the texture of particle board, sticky tape in various stages of decay, and abstract compositions seemingly out of overlapping remains of adhesive film. Inexpensive and banal materials and garbage turn out, on the second or even third or fourth look, to be the result of the highest craftsmanship and expert precision and sophistication. The manual creative process is never visible, which makes the question “How?” even more pressing.

In contemplation of the works, the illusory effect keeps presenting itself over and over again, but paradoxically, the notion of the forgery does not lessen the effect. The trompe l’oeil effect as perfect illusion makes the paintings appear as objects of mistaken identity. Since in a social context, each object not just an object is, but also a commodity, the question of value arises which in the case of the work of art must assert itself as symbolic, in order to become real. In this respect, these succinct and humorous paintings refer to the old but ever current issue of a contemporary definition of art.

Annika Wienert, September 2015

*Joachim Grommek born 1957 in Wolfsburg, Germany.
He lives and works in Berlin, Germany.*