

JAN VAN DER PLOEG – MWMW
16 November 2013 – 11 January 2014

Taubert Contemporary is pleased to open the first solo exhibition by Jan van der Ploeg, entitled MWMW, in their exhibition space on 15 November 2013. The Amsterdam-based artist is one of the most influential representatives of contemporary geometric abstraction in the Netherlands.

Colour, form and shape are the key elements of Jan van der Ploeg's artistic work. The range of variations which he is developing with these parameters is always surprising. Van der Ploeg's palette confronts the non-colours black and white with bold colours such as pink, purple or orange. Thus, he is grounded in the tradition of the Dutch *de Stijl* (a.k.a. neoplasticism), but reinterprets it innovatively by sculpturally redefining his painting using minimalist artistic methods such as repetition, seriality, and two-dimensionality.

In recent years, Jan van der Ploeg has consistently explored the space between art and everyday life. In this pursuit, the medium of wall painting plays a central role which to him connects the two poles perfectly. The minimalist setting of "place and presence" fits perfectly into the way in which the artist deals with the existing architecture and its function. The countless commissions he has realised for major museums and public institutions the world over bear witness to this. The monumental intervention in the entrance of the gallery draws on this particular experience. It skillfully blends the interaction of functionality, architecture and artistic intervention in a wall painting that emphasises the importance of the place as entrance to the gallery and at the same time preserves its claim as an independent work of art.

In the exhibition space, the wall painting MWMW impresses by its positive energy. Since 2011, after the oblong grips and the undulating waves, Jan van der Ploeg turns to an increasingly graphically arranged repertoire of forms. In MWMW, the typographical characters M and W are used as both opposing and mirroring graphic modules. The two letters are reduced to their formal possibilities in order to be able to highlight them more intensely as a graphic pattern. The resulting tension between the uniform wave motion and the contrasting colours of white and pink unleashes a power that makes the room pulsate.

MWMW is complemented by a selected number of smaller canvases in similar formats. In dynamic ranking, these displays reflect the quality that distinguishes Jan van der Ploeg as a painter: It is the inexhaustible creativity with which the artist manages to renew the repertoire of geometric abstraction over and over again.

Friederike Nymphius, November 2013

*Jan van der Ploeg born 1959 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
He lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*