

## Jan van der Ploeg

May 12—June 25, 2023

Galerie Siedlarek, Frankfurt am Main

Galerie Siedlarek is pleased to present Jan van der Ploeg in his first solo exhibition in Frankfurt.

Jan van der Ploeg's work expands the boundaries of contemporary geometric abstraction, bridging painting, design, and architecture. He develops his paintings simultaneously on canvas, paper, and expansive murals, seamlessly crossing boundaries between these mediums. Van der Ploeg's paintings merge image, space, wall, and architecture into a unified sphere through the medium of color and form, extending into public space. His approach is rooted in early 20th-century movements, most notably De Stijl and Bauhaus, which first proposed ideas of a universal visual language applicable across creative disciplines. Their ethos, uniting art and life, is carried into the present and further developed in van der Ploeg's practice.

Van der Ploeg's concrete hard-edge paintings feature geometric monochrome shapes and patterns in vibrant color arrangements, drawing inspiration from diverse cultural sources such as Italian Renaissance architecture, Maori weaving, and Islamic tile design. His modular compositions, characterized by their rhythmic sequences of repetition and variation, draw from post-war Minimalism and Conceptual Art. However, they blend a fascination with geometric principles with perceptual engagement and a sense of dynamism. „The impact of van der Ploeg's paintings“, curator Michelle Grabner observes, „is located at the intersection of sensation and thought, between the work's graphic visual impact and its conceptual underpinnings.“ Despite van der Ploeg's anti-narrative approach, the abstract shapes in his work often evoke associations akin to signs or symbols. Certain shapes reoccur throughout his oeuvre, reiterated in a variety of contexts, on both canvases and wall paintings. These become distinctively recognizable abstract motifs, subtly acknowledging Richard Artschwager's ‚blps,‘ while also resonating with contemporary graffiti and street art tags.

Van der Ploeg's canvas and paper works are conceptual, meticulously crafted, and flawless in their execution. Using stencils and acrylic paints mixed with special varnishes, he creates highly artificial surfaces of color and form that lack the secondary characteristics typically associated with classical painting, such as brushwork, paint application and irregularities. As a result, his wall works, despite their visual density, appear almost immaterial, like thoughts condensed in space. Despite being tied to the canvas, van der Ploeg's paintings seem to transcend painting itself.

In his wall paintings, Jan van der Ploeg extends his approach to geometric abstraction into space and architecture. Over the past 30 years, he has created more than five hundred site-specific murals in museums, galleries, corporations, public, and private spaces worldwide. These compelling interventions, temporary or permanent, respond to the specific conditions and functions of a given architectural space. His wall paintings typically engage and activate the full height and width of a wall, with works extending to fill entire rooms, span multiple rooms or floors, or scale stairwells. The entirety of the painting's dynamics are always greater than the architecture that supports them. Image, plane, and architecture merge into a geometric vortex that captures and focuses the viewer's perception, immersing them in the pulsating rhythm of forms, colors, and structures.

The exhibition includes new works on canvas and paper, as well as a mural specifically designed by Jan van der Ploeg for the gallery's outdoor space. It will be presented at the exhibition opening on May 12.

(please turn)

Jan van der Ploeg (\*1959, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) lives and works in Amsterdam.

Selected solo and group exhibitions include Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; MOMA PS1, New York, Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel; Kunstverein Heilbronn, Heilbronn; Von Bartha, Basel; Minus Space, New York; Sikkema Jenkins, New York; Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington; Starkwhite, Auckland; Sumer, Tauranga; Taubert Contemporary, Berlin; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago; Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, Cleveland; Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney; Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington; Dunedin Public Art Gallery; Daimler Art Collection, Stuttgart; Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen; Kunst-Station, Wolfsburg; Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt; Kunstmuseum der Stadt Ulm; Mies van der Rohe Haus, Berlin; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Kunstmuseum, Den Haag, and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Van der Ploeg's work is held in numerous public collections worldwide, including The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Museum Ulm; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Daimler AG, Stuttgart/Berlin; Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milan; Maasstad Ziekenhuis, Rotterdam; Ministerie van Financiën, The Hague; Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken, The Hague; Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, The Hague; UMC, Amsterdam; NG Collectie, Amsterdam; MOTI, Breda; Gemeente Leeuwarden; Universiteit Twente, Enschede; Sint Anthonius Ziekenhuis, Nieuwgein; CCA, Andraxt; Rijksmuseum Twente, Enschede; I.S.I.S. Rosario Livatino, Neapel; Villa Mondriaan, Winterswijk; Schunck, Heerlen; Gemeente Nijmegen; RAI, Amsterdam; Baker Botts, Houston; Chartwell Collection, Auckland; Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch -Art Gallery of West Australia, Perth; Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden; ABN-AMRO Collection, Amsterdam; Kunstcollectie De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam; LeasePlan Nederland, Almere; Dunedin Public art Gallery, Dunedin.

In 1990 Jan van der Ploeg received the Royal Award for Modern Painting.

[www.janvanderploeg.com](http://www.janvanderploeg.com)

The artist will be present for the opening.

A catalogue will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

For further information and press material please contact the gallery ([mail@galerie-siedlarek.com](mailto:mail@galerie-siedlarek.com)).