

## March 2017 "Farbspiele" solo exhibition, Briz-Waagen factory, Stuttgart

Introduction Rain. S.E. Schlatter

(...)

As you can see from the banner, the question is in the room, "may I play with art". The artist is answering it with a big yes. Literally, "I may, I must, following an inner urge."

But what does "play" actually mean here? When we think of the term "game", we do not only think of the child in the sandbox, (...), but also of the highly concentrated chess player who plans ahead strategically, or of the musician who surrenders to the dynamics of a piece.

In the pictures by Sonja Graeff-Schimmelpfennig shown here, on closer inspection, we find almost all these components of the game: the spectrum ranges from the quasi meditative dripping of thick paint layer by layer, to the academic picture construction according to the formula of the golden section, whereby she adapts Fibonacci's fifth division in the numerical division and sequence of colours.

However, according to the artist, this is usually done in reverse order: during the creative process, the strategically planned conception pushes her into the background in order to find the looseness for the play with materials and colours, to make the imagination flow and to be able to translate spontaneous visual or mental impressions into colour compositions in a structured way.

In short: With this artist, seriousness becomes play and play becomes serious, be it with the colours, the sometimes unusual material mixtures, the light effects and the placement in this extraordinary space. See and interpret for yourself which of the aforementioned play components predominate in each individual work.