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Martin Kobe's structures of mobility

Martin Kobe, born in Dresden, Germany, 1973, studied at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig, Germany under Prof. Arno Rink. He was awarded the 'Karl Schmidt-Rottluff Scholarship' in 2004/05. Kobe has a substantial record of national and international exhibitions, including the solo shows entitled 'The Centre Cannot Hold' at the Dresden State Art Collections, 'Behind True Symmetry' at White Cube Gallery in London (both in 2007) and 'Other Monuments' at The Domus Artium in Salamanca in 2009. Currently he is represented by Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, Berlin, and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London.

Having studied architecture, Martin Kobe, based in Leipzig, weds architectural splendors deriving from ancient Roman, Greek and Asian sacred architecture as well as 20th century modernism with the medium of painting. However, by piecing together different elements from multiple sources – photographs, found materials – onto the same canvas, he creates a composition devoid of clear recognition. Meticulously crafted autonomous constructions, various interiors, vigorous architectural visions: virtual spaces, jagged walls, ceilings interlaced with balconies and windows seize the attention of the beholder. From the precisely applied objects new, picturesque bodies emerge, often occupying the canvas. The initial rational constructions are devoured by the additional abstract and expressionist elements, while the literal reading of the space is further challenged by fields of paint. The pure, unrestricted relics of architecture displayed by Kobe are considered to be a language of signs: metaphors in built form that praise time. While constantly in flux in a fictional space, the varied assemblages ranging from the hues of vibrant to transparent are to be put together based on one's own perception of a whole, unassisted.

Text: Evelin Pál