

Press release of 4 March 2016

«In the Japanese tradition»

Gudrun Paysen: Ceramics – Katharina Shepherd: Ink Paintings

The ceramicist Gudrun Paysen and the ink painter Katharina Shepherd both lived in Japan for a long time, where they studied the art of ceramics, respectively ink painting. Although both have been back in Europe for over 20 years, to this day they maintain the Japanese tradition in their work. Their artworks reflect an appreciation of nature and the richness of simple and everyday forms and things. Paysen's ceramics impress through a rich variation of clay and glaze, Shepherd's monochrome paintings through their diversity of ink shades; in their own way both artists create works that are full of harmony, balance, elegant simplicity and quiet presence.

The German ceramicist **Gudrun Paysen** (*1947) lived in Japan for twelve years, a country where ceramics have a long tradition and are highly regarded, both as craft and fine art objects. Paysen studied at various traditional technical schools in Tokyo and to this day the philosophy of Japanese ceramics informs her work. Paysen sees herself as an intermediary between natural material and emerging vessel, the character of which is determined by the clay. Paysen adjusts her varied and often translucent glazes to this using wood and plant ash. Minor irregularities in form or glaze and the chance effects that occur during firing lend individuality to every work. Paysen's tea bowls, vases and other vessels are a delight to look at and to touch; they should not only be admired but also used every day.

A stay in Japan also shaped the Swiss ink painting artist **Katharina Shepherd-Kobel** (*1952). She lived there for ten years and was taught Zen meditation, ink painting and calligraphy. Painting became her way of capturing the essence of things and applying this artistically and she has now taught and practised ink painting and Zen meditation in Switzerland for over 25 years. Ink painting can be both an artistic and spiritual journey. Shepherd's paintings therefore testify not only to the beauty, harmony and wealth of everyday plants, such as dandelions and daffodils, and to the expressive power of abstract subjects – they also convey the attentiveness, devotion and calmness essential to the work of this artist. Only such qualities enable her to bring the thoughtful observer closer to the essence of things using the simplest of means.

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Thursday 17 March 2016, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artists will be present.

The exhibition runs from 18 March 2016 to 30 April 2016.

Exhibition tour with Katharina Shepherd: Saturday 2 April 2016 at 15.00.

Talk on «Japanese ceramics» with Dr. Charly Iten: Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 18.30. The Japanologist and art historian gives an introduction to Japanese ceramics.

Closing drinks with the artists: Saturday 30 April 2016 from 12.00 to 14.00.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 13.00 to 18.00, Saturday 11.00 to 14.00, or by appointment. Closed during Easter (25 to 28 March 2016).

Further information available from:

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Gudrun Paysen

Background

1975–1978	Ceramics studies at the Nihon Toge Club in Tokyo (JP)
1981–1985	Ceramics studies at the Nihon Toge Club in Tokyo (JP)
1985–1989	Further training at Japan International Ceramics in Tokyo (JP)
1986	Opening of own studio in Tokyo (JP)
Since 1989	Own studio and exhibition space in Berg, Lake Starnberger (DE)

Exhibitions

Since 2000	Annual exhibitions at the Japanfest at the English Garden, Munich (DE)	2003	Siebold-Museum, Würzburg (DE) Kunstsalon Ohm, Munich (DE) Franck-Haus, Marktheidenfeld (DE) Kulturmodell Passau (DE)
Since 1996	Annual studio exhibitions in Berg (DE)	2002	Municipal Museum Siegburg
2015	Annual exhibition of the members of the Bavarian Association for Arts and Crafts, Munich (DE)	2001	Arts and Crafts in Berg, Group exhibition Painting – Jewellery – Ceramics (DE)
2014	Bavarian Association for Arts and Crafts, Munich (DE)	2000	Galerie Hollerhaus, Irschenhausen/Icking (DE) Homburg Castle in Homburg-Triefenstein (DE) Galerie Zulauf at the Gottfried-Weber-Haus, Freinsheim (DE)
2013	Buchheim Museum (Japantag), Bernried (DE) Nymphenburg Palace, Munich, Geranienhaus (DE)		Exhibition in the lobby of the Industrie- und Handelskammer in Augsburg und Schwaben (DE) Museum for Ethnology, Munich (DE)
2012	Galerie Claudia Geiser, Zurich (CH) Municipal Museum Siegburg (DE)	1999	Kunstsalon Ohm, Munich (DE) Mohrvilla, Munich (DE)
2011	Nymphenburg Palace, Munich (DE) U-Bahn Galerie Munich (DE)	1997	Taubenturm of the Heimatverein Diessen (DE)
2010	Galerie Terra Auri, Munich (DE) Orangerie, München (DE)	1995	Galerie Hollerhaus, Irschenhausen/Icking (DE)
2009	Otto-Hellmeier-Kulturhaus, Raisting (DE) Nymphenburg Palace, Munich (DE) Akimatsuri, Beuerberg (DE) Forestry experimental garden, Grafrath (DE) Wasserturm, Dachau (DE)	1994	Galerie S, Forstinning (DE)
2005	Potter's Market Diessen, Exhibition at the Taubenturm (DE) Art Tenne, Wangen (DE)	1993	Galerie Gottfried-Weber-Haus, Freinsheim (DE) Galerie Hollerhaus, Irschenhausen/Icking (DE)
2004	Cultural association Olching (DE)	1992	Galerie S, Forstinning (DE) Glass and Ceramic Gallery, Bonn (DE)
		1990	Galerie Gottfried-Weber-Haus, Freinsheim (DE)
		1989	Gallery Kaya, Tokyo (JP)

Collections

German embassy, Tokyo (JP); Japanese consulate general, Munich (DE); Museums of the City of Landshut, collection Rudolf Strasser (DE).

Selected works

1. Gudrun Paysen, *Vase*, 2015, clay: Earthenware, glaze: Soratakatori, height 20 cm, width 30 cm.
2. Gudrun Paysen, *Tea bowl*, 2015, clay: Hagi, glaze: Oribe, height 8 cm, Ø 11 cm.
3. Gudrun Paysen, *Vase*, 2014, clay: Coarse earthenware, glaze: Wood ash, height 36 cm, Ø 25 cm.
4. Gudrun Paysen, *Tea bowl*, 2015, clay: Hagi, glaze: Ash from chestnut leaves, height 8.5 cm, Ø 11.5 cm.

Katharina Shepherd

Education

1982–1991 Residency in Japan
Training in Zen, traditional ink painting and calligraphy
Japanese language studies (1983–1985)

Selected exhibitions

2013 «Bamboo and Cherry Blossom», Galerie Claudia Geiser, Zurich (CH)
2012 «Rollbilder und Bildrollen», shop window contrast, Bern (CH)
2010 Hanging scrolls and other ink paintings, La chapelle nouvel, Biel (CH)
2009 «Wie Zen schmeckt», exhibition of illustrations from the eponymous book, Benediktushof, Holzkirchen near Würzburg (DE)
2007 «Ink Paintings», bg25 – Raum für Soziokultur, Bern (CH)
«Bambus und Kirschblüten», Galerie Rütihubelbad, Walkringen (CH)
2006 «Bambus, Orchideen, Pflaumenblüten, Chrysanthemen», Benediktushof, Holzkirchen near Würzburg (DE)
«Zen in der Kunst der Tuschkmalerei», author's reading and exhibition from the first edition of the eponymous book, Bookshop Stauffacher, Bern (CH)

Publications

Katharina Shepherd-Kobel, *Handbuch der fernöstlichen Tuschkmalerei*, Bielefeld 2006
Katharina Shepherd-Kobel, *Zen in der Kunst der Tuschkmalerei*, Bielefeld 2005

Book illustrations

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Nenne mich bei meinem wahren Namen*, Munich 2010
Doris Zölls, Christof Zirkelbach, *Wie Zen schmeckt*, Munich 2009
Willigis Jäger, *Westöstliche Weisheit*, Bielefeld 2007
Willigis Jäger, *Das Leben endet nie*, Freiburg 2005

Selected works

1. Katharina Shepherd, *Abstract*, 2014, hanging scroll, ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm, including silk mounting 103.5 x 44 cm.
2. Katharina Shepherd, *Taraxacum (Dandelion)*, 2014, hanging scroll, ink on paper, 33 x 24 cm, including silk mounting 110 x 34 cm.
3. Katharina Shepherd, *Narcissus poeticus*, 2014, hanging scroll, ink on paper, 33 x 24 cm, including silk mounting 102 x 35 cm.
4. Katharina Shepherd, *Peony*, 2015, ink on paper, 24.6 x 19.6 cm.