

Caroline von Grone

Double Reflection (2014 - 2017)

May 20th, 2017 – August 19th, 2017

The exhibition "Double Reflection" featuring portraits from the eponymous series by Caroline von Grone, will be on view from 20 May to 19 August 2017 at Galerie m Bochum. The Hamburg-based artist has been working on these two-part works since 2014, for a time in a temporary studio at Lehmbrock Museum in Duisburg, portraying in some cases people she encountered in the Kantpark just outside. The portraits are now being shown for the first time in a large-scale show. The artist plans to make further paintings at Galerie m to continue this series, enabling visitors to experience her at work.

"Double Reflection" consists of sets of two portraits showing the same sitter in the same pose. The artist paints one image in color on canvas directly after the model, and the second is rendered as an oil sketch on a white background after a photograph. "A photo is not always a good likeness of the person. But when they are sitting before me as model, their own atmosphere charges the space all around – and that in turn changes the portrait," says von Grone, adding: "It's only then that the complexity of the personality is fully revealed."

When examining the finished works, the difference between the two processes of depiction, between presentation and representation, authenticity and cipher, is quite striking. The observed portrait, which bears Caroline von Grone's own inimitable touch and intense coloring, seems more individualized and multi-layered. By contrast, the oil sketch done after the photograph offers only vague lines suggesting the basic contours, making a more stereotypical and distanced impression.

The artist is working with people from all walks of life for her project "Double Reflection," among them completely random encounters. She subjects all persons portrayed, whether known or unknown, to the same soberly observed, concept-oriented painting method. Von Grone's body of work conveys an intense exploration of the medium of painting in the field of tension between a clearly defined formal structure, abstract gestural color, and arresting realism.