

Press Release

JULIO RONDO
Echo

Opening: November 14th | 6 pm
November 15th – December 20th, 2024

Under the title "Echo", Galerie Andreas Binder shows the tenth solo exhibition by artist Julio Rondo.

Snapshots of situations and emotions are a starting point for Julio Rondo's multilayered compositions. Rondo deals with the involuntary appearance of memories in an abstract visual language. For the artist, it is not the restoration of the past encapsulated in these memories as a figurative or narrative representation that holds significance. Instead, the "essence" of stored perceptions of people, events, and places is expressed in his works.

Always remaining true to painting behind glass, Julio Rondo's works move between abstract painting and object-like nature. The increasing dominance of the brushstroke as the painter's most elementary tool of artistic expression generates his characteristic pictorial spaces, in which the artist captures and preserves not only the remembered past but an experienced present in all its subjectivity and stringency. The painting assignment is the result of the planning of technology, means, and composition before the image-creating process and does not correspond to an expressive, spontaneous act of painting.

Julio Rondo arranges brilliant blocks of color in pink, green, bright orange, and cool blue on the glass surface. Contrary to the classic composition on canvas, the image is not constructed from back to front but from front to back. The finished work is always presented in verso. Through the glass surface, we see the back of the painting, the lowest brushstroke first, luminously exposed by the precise surface of the glass. In a further layer, Julio Rondo overlays the brushstrokes on the glass with color fields on the wooden back wall, spaced two and a half centimeters apart. These areas of color manipulate and complement the color effect of the brushstrokes on the glass. In the interplay between these two layers and through the use of sometimes transparent, sometimes opaque paint application, Julio Rondo achieves an incomparable intensity of color in his works.

No correction is possible in his painting process, as Rondo applies the liquid acrylic in broad, unrestrained brushstrokes across the smooth surface. The moment of action is crucial - as in the fresco technique or Japanese Sumi-e painting, which is all about speed in applying paint and a high degree of mastery of the material. The paint must be thick enough, the hand must not be unsteady, and the brushes must not be too stiff. Only then can Rondo maintain the tension of the texture and allow the immediacy of the pure brushstroke to be understood as the essence of the artist's movement, as a snapshot, and as a memory for the viewer.

The title of each work is another layer alongside the glass, wood, and the atmospheric layer in between. Rondo often assigns these titles purely associatively. References to philosophy, music, or personal memories add an additional dimension to the work, which must be thought of as another color. To that end, the artist complies over extended periods with long lists with brief sentences, fragments of song texts, or single words. They serve him as a source of inspiration for the titles. It is an accumulative procedure of cultural fragments, set pieces, and relics. They stick out of our cultural tapestry like fringes whose ends the artist takes up. Rondo collects and filters a mass of cultural data; he has an enormous archive of music, photographs, newspapers, and much more with which he works.

Drawing from his individual visual archive, Rondo creates powerful documents of a life that can activate emotions, thoughts, and perceptions through painting without mimetically depicting his surroundings.

Born in 1952 in Sontrondio, Spain, Julio Rondo immigrated to Germany with his parents in 1962. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart under Prof. KRH Sonderborg from 1974 to 1980 and currently lives and works in Berlin.

