

BRIGITTE KOWANZ

Opening on Thursday, 10 November 2016, 6 p.m.
11 November 2016 – 10 January 2017

In an interview for the *Neue Vorarlberger Tageszeitung* on 24 April 2016 **BRIGITTE KOWANZ** (Vienna 1957) stated, "I concentrate on light and space, the spatial quality and informative content of light", thus describing in a nutshell her artistic creativity.

Light is immaterial; it can neither be grasped nor seized. From a scientific point of view, according to Albert Einstein it is a matter equally of a partial current and an electro-magnetic wave phenomenon. Yet despite this explanation, for us it remains mysterious and fascinating, has a strong attraction and symbolic force, and is associated with knowledge and enlightenment. Light is manifested only when it hits matter. Vice versa, matter only becomes visible by absorbing light. Only few materials are transparent and translucent. **BRIGITTE KOWANZ** uses these qualities of glass in her works. In combination with reflected rear walls and neon or LED lighting the artist creates illusionistic artistically aesthetic glass cubes.

In **BRIGITTE KOWANZ's** art, along with light and space, the third essential element is language and its partial coding. In eight of the twelve wall and floor objects exhibited in our gallery, the artist's handwriting, transferred to neon or LED letters is used. AS WELL AS, ATTITUDE, and SWITCH OVER can be read through dyed glass cubes in green, lilac and blue writing. In order to be able to grasp the concepts in their entirety, the observer has to stride around the works. Thus SWITCH OVER indirectly becomes a direction for use. The light of the writing as well as the observers themselves are repeatedly reflected in varied manner in a full-length mirror which forms the rear wall of the work of art. The dynamism of the work consists of constant transformation: one stands opposite a scenery which can never be clearly comprehended.

The information content of the light is shown in two cubes in our exhibition on the basis of visualized Morse codes: CODE and MOMENT. Fascinated by the fact that with only three elements - long and short signals as well as pauses, every letter of the alphabet plus the numbers 0 to 9 can be conveyed - the artist began in the 1990s to apply this linguistic code system in her works. However, **BRIGITTE KOWANZ** does not translate it into a temporal sequence of light impulses, but into a static image of light and multiple reflections. Works of of virtual grace are created that aesthetically reformulate the Morse system and artistically transcend the coding of their messages.

BRIGITTE KOWANZ will represent Austria at the Biennale di Venezia in 2017 together with Erwin Wurm. Our exhibition is the only and final presentation by **BRIGITTE KOWANZ** before this major event. All the works on show were created this year specifically for our exhibition.

Salzburg, November 2016

Katja Mittendorfer