

The new paintings of Günther Knipp

by Prof. Dieter Boeminghaus

Flooded by light. Penetrating. Something is illuminated which usually cannot be seen. As in a solar eclipse, where observation is permitted by omission, also in Günther Knipp's new paintings the usual is left out. The effect is that the eye can see new objects, uncover new details. The light takes you beyond the possible.

The painting is made whole as the lines connect to the horizon and catch the eye. It's like traveling in space. An immense space opens up without perspective. The ambient light creates a space that expands in all directions. The painting's linear, right-angled edges create an artificial horizon. Or is it only the airplane's window frame which limits my look?

I return to the impressions the paintings have left on me, the observer. I realize that I have no precise image left of them, clear or outlined. I can see that my memories of the paintings are positive. In fact, I have no hesitation in judging these new paintings among the best of Günther Knipp's production.

But something else and hard to describe is taking place. I can remember single paintings. However, contrary to what usually happens, I am not taken back to the sensations experienced when I saw them first. The memory of the painting is as interesting a visual experience as the painting itself. It nurtures my primary and inner wish of wanting to lose myself in this indefinite light space, flying without boundaries in all directions.

At first look, one may assume that the new paintings of Günther Knipp are taking the observer in a new and undiscovered world, one that exists only beyond old borders. This comes from our ingrained habits to transfer all that is unknown onto a strange planet and condemn it as something fantastic which can only be imagined and unrealistic. The truth is that this new light springs from our everyday life and experience. And it brings the artist Günther Knipp on the right track. He sees this new light in familiar things. He photographs it. He changes, clears, separates and connects it looking for ways to strengthen it. This is a highly complex process in which everything superfluous is deleted, leaving in the end the real illumination. The waves of light. The title of the painting reflects the location where this new light has been perceived at first: the neon sign of a bar, a reflection, a glass, a puddle in the street, water. Everyday appearances.

In these new paintings of Günther Knipp our eye is not drawn to these familiar objects, but on the light that exists beyond them. It is like if these paintings liberate us from old concepts and ideas and at the same time make us hungry for more. Those who will accept this new adventure can confidently forget old maps as it is not far away poles that they will be exploring. The New is lying right at our door steps.