

## Durchforsten – Walking through the forest

The exhibition 'Durchforsten', which will run from 16th to 22nd of January, showcases works by the German artists Jens Rausch und L. I. Suenner. 'Durchforsten' features paintings and sculptures that deal in multiple ways with the artistic interpretation of forests. As the title indicates the viewer is invited to an adventurous journey through a visual forest. Taking place at the OAG (Ostasiatische Gesellschaft) the exhibition can be visited daily from 10am to 5pm.

It is the second time that Jens Rausch and L. I. Suenner present their works together in a group show. Having exhibited extensively in different countries and now for the second time in Japan it is the first time for both artists to show their body of work. Featured works are black and white oil paintings by Jens Rausch and felt sculptures by L. I. Suenner. The show is curated by Renato Pirotta.

L. I. Suenner is known for her installations that she creates out of felt. In her objects and installations she plays in a humorous way with the ambiguity of forms. She draws her inspiration from day to day materials. Characteristically she changes their proportions, cuts, twists, swirls or simply positions the objects into a totally different context to their previous environment. In doing so she raises questions of perspective and reality – often in a humorous manner. Using felt as material she achieves a high variety of forms keeping in mind the Vanitas-character between illusion and reality. For the exhibition she has created saws and axes.

Jens Rausch on the other side explores in his large scale forest scenes the natural habitat. He uses reduction and abstraction to create his own painterly language that presents the forest in its deconstructed components. The contours of the trees are entirely shaped by shadows. Adding on another level of meaning Jens Rausch uses carbon black as material in his works. In doing so he refers to the biological elements and circle of the forest.

The combining element between both artists' approaches is the interest in the ambiguity between outer appearance and inner character. Cutting out very specific views of the forest and thereby extracting the trees from their characteristic geographic context, Jens Rausch transforms his subjective German and Japanese forest experiences into universal ones. Each forest view seems to have its very specific characteristics. However in the context of the exhibition the different scenes and sculptures of axes and saws merge into one homogenous experience. Asking the viewer to question his own perceptions and experiences of the forest.

L. I. Suenner was born in 1959 in Winnigen/Southwest Germany and studied Arts and Crafts in Hanau/Germany. Her work was exhibited in several exhibitions in Germany and abroad. Some of her works have been exhibited in Public Spaces for instance in Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Cologne and Wiesbaden, but also abroad in Thessaloniki/Greece, Zurich/Switzerland, New York/USA and Tokyo.

Jens Rausch was born in 1976 in Fulda/Hessen. He currently lives and works in Hamburg. He has exhibited in several single and group shows in Germany, Georgia, Netherlands, Mexico and Japan. He was nominated for the Wesseling art price 2015 and participated in artist in residency programs in Iceland and Switzerland.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an opening reception which will take place on 18th of January at 8pm. Attendance is free. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue.

For further information:

[www.jensrausch.de](http://www.jensrausch.de)

[www.laurasuenner.de](http://www.laurasuenner.de)