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# Philipp von Rosen Galerie

**Christof Mascher**

**history crush**

**Opening: 3. June 2016 at 7 pm**

**Exhibition: 4. June–30. July 2016**

We are very happy to announce Christof Mascher's return to Cologne. After having shown him in 2006 in a group exhibition, we will inaugurate his first solo *history crush* on June 3, 2016 at 7 pm – effectively Mascher's first solo exhibition in the Rhineland after almost ten years.

The words that form the exhibition's title, *history crush*, can each be read in multiple directions and these routes indicate also the way Christof Mascher's paintings can be understood. He is alluding to the history of mankind and / or the world: crocodiles, monuments, architectures, vehicles, historic figures, and more are the elements that inhabit his pictures. By the way he assembles these elements in / over the pictorial space – the term *pasticcio* comes to mind –, he is also telling and not telling a story, being a (hi-)story-teller. While he is offering contents that seem as if they could be understood, he is also keeping these contents open. There is no definite history to be clearly read. Whatever can be seen is broken up, remains allusive, associative.

Plus: as viewers, the paintings (and likewise the works on paper) allow us to have a crush on them, with their beauty, their refined surfaces, their subtle but also intense coloration, their depicted depth that is – at the same time – neglected (crushed towards the flat picture plane). The crush, in particular in the case of the larger works, can also be seen in the amount of objects strewn over the picture plane, not allowing us to focus on one or two particular situations, but forcing us to understand the entirety of what has been painted as a somewhat chaotic multiplicity of possible meanings.

Christof Mascher (born 1979 in Hannover, lives and works in Brunswick), graduated in 2009 at the Brunswick University of Art (with Prof. Walter Dahn). He has had single exhibitions at (amongst other shows) the Kunsthalle Emden, Dusseldorf's Kunstverein Malkasten, Goslar's Mönchehaus Museum for Modern Art, and at the Galerie der Stadt Remscheidt.

For further information and / or images please contact the gallery.