

ABOUT MICHAEL BENNETT (UK/AUS)

AN INTRO BY NELE HERZOG

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One of the reasons Michael came to Berlin is that he is excited by the concept of Europe, being the loose bond of nations it is. He thinks that here, people are more resourceful and places are more easily reachable than in Australia, where he spent a large part of his life. After his residency at the Büro in Neukölln Michael is staying in Berlin, and developing concepts to lead to exhibitions in other European cities. Since Michael was originally born in the UK his stay in Berlin is in a way the beginning of a return.

When it comes to art, Michael likes to use the simple shaping and colouring in his work to explain his concepts rather than verbalise them himself. Michael is not concerned about the kind of judgment his pieces are exposed to. For him, the selling point of a work should not rely on a 'quirky' artist personality, rather the paintings themes and aesthetic qualities. He also says, that he enjoys making abstract conclusions, and it sounds like something he would like people to think of his paintings as well.

So when trying to understand what Michael's art is about, it is important to keep his way of thinking in mind. He wants to make people notice subtleties and the beauty of backgrounds by keeping things extremely clean. Looking at his works over the years, it seems as if he is moving forward in a continuous process, trying to create the most well adjusted composition that sports the most appealing combination of colours and then documenting

it in a way that does not revoke easy assumptions to a viewer at last. Each of Michael's paintings goes through multiple phases and moods, before he finally frames them, to hide how the final composition came into being by covering its edges and different layers. It is however probably safe to say that he will never be able to create the 'ultimate' peace and therefore luckily never stop seeking it.