

LICHTPROBE

G2

Jörg Ernert

February 8 – May 12, 2019

Currently on display at the G2 Kunsthalle is Jörg Ernert's exhibition entitled *Lichtprobe* (Light Rehearsal), his first institutional solo show. The central focus in Ernert's paintings lies in his intense engagement with existing places, in how he is able to reduce his pictorial objects to their essential characteristics. His basic framework of the compositional structures of shapes and spaces is marked by the use of gestural brushstrokes, which, from a formal perspective, places Ernert's work on the border between figurative and abstract painting.

Born in Leipzig in 1974, Ernert is a professor at its Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst (Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig) and has been artistically engaged with the rehearsal space and stage of the Leipzig Opera since 2016.

The opera series on display here is based on various drawings of backstage rooms sketched during rehearsals for a number of different productions. Rather than addressing the events on stage, the artist focuses on the appeal the space itself exudes.

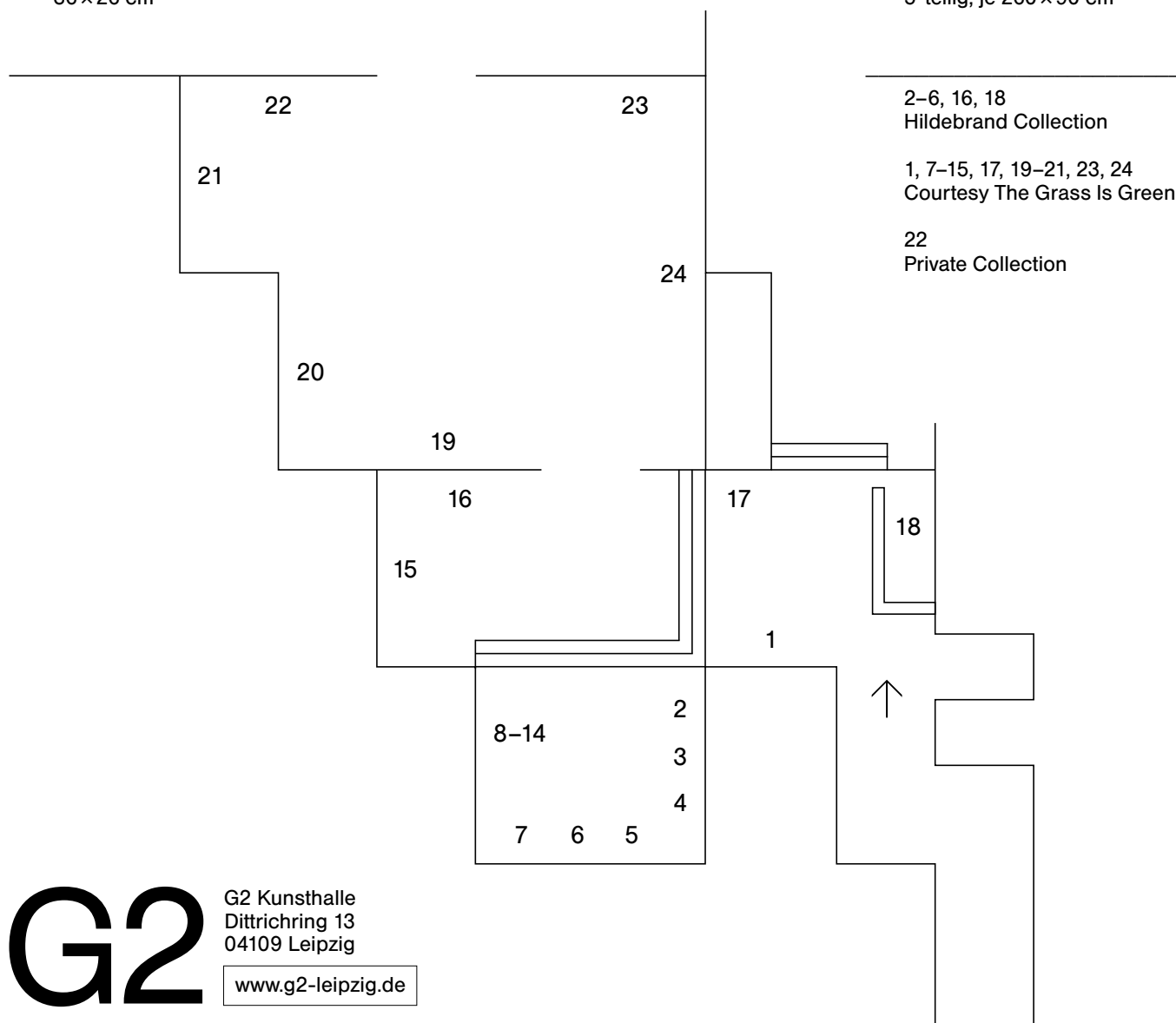
Ernert's opera paintings highlight the rooms' vertical axis and, consequently, their enormous height and the unusual sightlines he encountered while working in them. The dynamic of the space and its sheer size are reflected in the painting process, where lines of colour dart up and down. The construction of space provides the structural basis for Ernert's pictorial compositions; his intuitive understanding of shapes, dramatic perspectives, and spatial volume is revealed in the way he energetically applies paint to canvas. As the paintings' titles imply, it is often elements such as partition screens, mirrors, curtains, spotlights, rear walls, passageways or scaffolds that will end up in the artist's sights. The sparingly positioned

cast of figures is accentuated by the colours of the light they are suffused in. These actors, musicians and stagehands solely serve to establish the particulars of their surroundings, thus blending into the scenery like theatre props.

Special attention is given to the light on stage. In *Lichtprobe* (24), a cycle of pictures made up of five paintings, the artist modifies the illumination of a given motif by using a variety of tones and temperatures while simultaneously fragmenting spaces into horizontal strips of colour. What seems to be addressed here are not simply the changes created by specific lighting scenarios; it is the idea of the refraction of light within the optical prism and the resulting dispersion of white light into spectral colours which we are given to contemplate. In the chromatic tones contained in each painting of this series, the sensations of seeing light and hearing colours come together in synesthetic symbiosis. In Ernert's interpretation, the 'stage universe' turns out to be a sounding board for his painting. In the first room, Ernert's opera house cycle is supplemented by two large-scale paintings from the series *Kletterhalle* (climbing hall) from 2014 (1, 15), as well as earlier works from the Hildebrand Collection: His paintings *Chinatown* (5-6) and *Schärttnerhalle* (2-4, 16, 18) enable us to trace Ernert's artistic evolution and, simultaneously, illustrate how the vitality of his visual style and his focus on the essential characteristics of his motifs, as well as his choice of format and colours are determined by his perception of the subject at hand.

(Text: Anka Ziefer,
Translation: Lisa Voigt)

1. KLETTERHALLE – FENSTERWAND II
2014, acrylic on canvas
240×150 cm
2. SCHÄRTTNERHALLE – SÜDWAND II
2004, acrylic on canvas
50×40 cm
3. SCHÄRTTNERHALLE – SÜDWAND I
2004, acrylic on canvas
50×40 cm
4. SCHÄRTTNERHALLE – GRUBE II
2005, acrylic on canvas
130×140 cm
5. CHINATOWN – RAD
2006, acrylic on canvas
40×60 cm
6. CHINATOWN – WEISSE WAND
2006, acrylic on canvas
60×40 cm
7. OPER – STRAHLER I
2017, acrylic on canvas
40×50 cm
8. OPER – RAUMTEILER II
2017, water colour on paper
36×26 cm
9. OPER – VAN GOGH III
2017, water colour on paper
23×31 cm
10. OPER – SPIEGELWAND III
2017, water colour on paper
23×31 cm
11. OPER – BÜHNENGANG III
2017, water colour on paper
36×13 cm
12. OPER – LUCIA I
2017, water colour on paper
18×26 cm
13. OPER – LA CENERENTOLA II
2017, water colour on paper
36×26 cm
14. OPER – VORHANG I
2017, water colour on paper
36×26 cm
15. KLETTERHALLE – DOOR TO THE RIVER
2014, acrylic on canvas
300×220 cm
16. SCHÄRTTNERHALLE – ECKE II
2005, acrylic on canvas
100×70 cm
17. OPER – ORCHESTERPROBE II
2017, acrylic on canvas
160×110 cm
18. SCHÄRTTNERHALLE – ZWIELICHT
2005, acrylic on canvas
130×140 cm
19. OPER – UMBAU
2018, acrylic on canvas
300×195 cm
20. OPER – AUFTRITT, GROSSE FASSUNG
2018, acrylic on canvas
170×280 cm
21. OPER – BETT
2018, acrylic on canvas
300×195 cm
22. OPER – SCHNEE, GROSSE FASSUNG
2017, acrylic on canvas
120×130 cm
23. OPER – SPIEGEL
2018, acrylic on canvas
300×400 cm
24. OPER – LICHTPROBE
2018, acrylic on canvas
5-teilig, je 260×90 cm



2–6, 16, 18
Hildebrand Collection

1, 7–15, 17, 19–21, 23, 24
Courtesy The Grass Is Greener

22
Private Collection