

Kaspar Müller
Mandala

Société is pleased to announce the opening of its new location at Wielandstrasse 26 in Berlin Charlottenburg. The gallery will premiere *Mandala*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by the Swiss artist Kaspar Müller, opening Tuesday June 16.

One day, while spending an extended period of time together at home earlier this year, Kaspar Müller's six-year-old daughter Katharina surprised him with a painting on a single square of white 3-ply toilet paper imprinted with a repeating pattern of butterflies and flowers. Perhaps it was the slowed down pace of this intimate time, or simply the innocence and curiosity of a child's mind, but his daughter had infused new life into a quotidian element of industrial design. Using an array of oil crayons, she meticulously colored in the paper's indented patterns, unlocking a crisp and bold design through a delicate, yet decisive intervention. What ensued was an inter-generational exchange through the medium of one of the most banal household staples.

Müller's new paintings emerged from the positivity and beauty that his daughter's own paintings found in a product that is ubiquitous, empty, and profane—and his work maintains the sublime fluffiness and luminosity of the original. He performatively re-enacted her works on a grand scale through various layers of technical intervention. The large-scale prints not only emphasized the embellished pattern, but also the object-like quality of the paper sheet, including at times tattered or lightly torn edges. Müller then performed another layer of intervention by painting atop the image of his daughter's flowers with the same colors. Such a gesture brings about a moment where oil and digital patina meet in the fusion of an adult and a child's approach to making.

In Kaspar Müller's practice seemingly familiar objects somehow appear as hieroglyphs. A cast of everyday, yet nonetheless strangely hermetic motifs reappear throughout his oeuvre like vanished memories. Recoded, recalcitrant, and on first glance sometimes stubbornly mute, past works have ranged from physically tangible sculpture to shadowy reproductions of images. These paintings continue Müller's practice of working in recursive loops. By combining elements of pop and daily life, the works in *Mandala* hone in on the formal qualities of one of the most common objects used for personal care—transforming the industrial space of decorative pattern as a contemplative and expressive zone.

Kaspar Müller (b. 1983, Schaffhausen) lives and works in Berlin and Zurich. Müller has had solo exhibitions at der TANK, Institut Kunst HGK FHNW, Basel; Vleeshal, Middelburg; Kunsthalle Bern; Museum im Bellpark, Kriens; Kunsthalle Zürich; and Centre d'Art Contemporain, Lausanne. He has participated in group exhibitions at Swiss Institute, New York; Deutsches Architektur Zentrum, Berlin; MAMCO, Geneva; and Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, among other venues.