

FRANCISCO SIERRA: *LUNAR CONVENIENCES*
BEAT ZODERER: *THE ULTIMATE SPHERE*

Von Bartha, Basel

4 September – 23 October 2021



(L-R): Francisco Sierra, *Untitled* 2020. Photo: Conradin Frei; Beat Zoderer, *Monoblock Türkis No.4*, 2021.
Images courtesy von Bartha & the artist.

Press Release, 11 August 2021

Von Bartha is pleased to present two solo exhibitions by Chilean-Swiss artist Francisco Sierra and Swiss artist Beat Zoderer in the gallery's Basel space, 4 September – 23 October 2021. *Lunar Conveniences* will showcase new works by Francisco Sierra, including a triptych painting and a sculptural work, exhibited in the south space of the gallery. *The Ultimate Sphere* will continue Beat Zoderer's exploration into large-scale sculpture and present a series of new sculptural works by the artist that will fill the gallery's north space.

Francisco Sierra (b.1977, Santiago de Chile) is known for considering the possibilities of representation and perception in his work. *Lunar Conveniences*, his first solo exhibition at von Bartha, will feature new paintings as well as a new sculptural installation. A self-taught visual artist, Sierra is interested in the transformation of apparent clarity into something new and enigmatic. Often working within the realms of both photorealism and surrealism, Sierra focuses on the pitfalls of contemporary photographic reproduction and the transformative potential of painting. In this field of tension between supposedly realistic reproduction and invention, Sierra's work in *Lunar Conveniences* creates spaces for a narration that takes illusionistic painting method to another level.

The new sculptural installation will playfully explore musical notation and the desire for attribution. Pretending to function as furniture, its bent and curved wooden forms will allude to a dense network of references.

Stefan von Bartha, Director, commented: *“We are excited to present Francisco Sierra’s first solo exhibition at our gallery. The show will surprise the viewer with a mix of the artist’s signature paintings alongside a dynamic new sculptural installation that connects to his musical past”.*

Beat Zoderer (b.1955, Zürich) is known for his colourful paintings, sculptures and installations created from everyday materials. *The Ultimate Sphere* will showcase new sculptural works, including a monumental sculpture, site-specific to the gallery space, created using a Suprematist construction method. The sculpture will consist of a giant sphere assembled from numerous wooden boards, which will be painted on-site by the artist using heavily watered-down paint, doused on untreated wood. The sculpture will utilise colours typical to Zoderer’s work, but will be more muted and subtle due to the process of application.

Zoderer uses his sculptures and assemblages as a tool to penetrate perspectives, illuminating the space and distorting depth. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Lyonel Feiniger, Georges Braque and El Lissitzky, the works featured in this show will be entirely spherical in character; playfully constructed using planks of polyurethane foam and coated with a thin layer of piano lacquer to create a perfect curved surface. Zoderer’s artistic approach to creating these new works is expressive, yet precise in its execution. A series of new sculptural wall-based works crafted from copper entitled, *kubistische Modelle*, will also be featured in the show, adding to the array of everyday materials the artist commonly uses.

Stefan von Bartha, commented: *“We have followed and admired the development of Beat Zoderer’s career for many years now, and it is always a pleasure to see the works that this talented artist creates. For this show, Zoderer will present a monumental, site-specific installation in the gallery, as well as new wall works which will be on view to the public for the first time”.*

Francisco Sierra: *Lunar Conveniences* and Beat Zoderer: *The Ultimate Sphere* will also be available to view through von Bartha’s online viewing room via www.vonbartha.com

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Facts:

Title: Francisco Sierra: *Lunar Conveniences* and Beat Zoderer: *The Ultimate Sphere*

Exhibition dates: 4 September – 23 October 2021

Address: Kannenfeldplatz 6, CH-4056 Basel

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 2 – 6pm, Saturday, 11am-4pm and by appointment

Admission: Free

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

Von Bartha follows the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health. Information on our online events and visiting our spaces will be communicated on our website and social media channels.

About Francisco Sierra

Francisco Sierra (born 1977, Santiago de Chile) moved to Switzerland with his family at the age of 9. He is a self-taught visual artist. Sierra studied violin under the guidance of Karen Turpie at the Hoogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht (NL). He is a founding member of the Performance Collective Jetpack Bellerive. He has been an artistic associate at the ETH Zürich in the Department of Architecture since 2018.

He has had institutional solo exhibitions at Kunsthaus Aarau, Kunsthaus Langenthal, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Kunstmuseum Solothurn, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum Ludwigshafen am Rhein. Group shows at Baku Biennale in Azerbaijan, SALTS Birsfelden, Last Tango Zürich, Kunstmuseum Bern and Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne, to name a few. He has been awarded many prizes for his work, such as the Kiefer Hablitzel Prize, the Swiss Art Award, the Manor Kunstpreis St. Gallen and the Studio grant in London by the Landis&Gyr foundation. In 2011 he was a fellow at the Sommerakademie Zentrum Paul Klee curated by Pipilotti Rist.

Several publications, amongst them a monograph at Verlag für Moderne Kunst with texts by Christoph Vögele, Raphael Gyax, Roland Wäspe and Nadine Wietlisbach as well as a Cahier d'Artiste by ProHelvetia with a text by Giovanni Carmine. In addition to this, *Lunar Invasion*, a large artist book published by Edition Patrick Frey providing an overview of the wide-ranging oeuvre of Sierra's paintings and will be released in September 2021.

His works are represented in many public, corporate and private collections, such as Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, Kunstmuseum Bern, Kunstmuseum St.Gallen, Pasquart Biel, Julius Bär Art Collection, Collection Credit Suisse and the Helvetia Collection.

About Beat Zoderer

Beat Zoderer (born 1955, Zürich) completed an apprenticeship as an architectural draftsman and worked in architectural offices from 1971–78. He has worked as an independent artist since 1979. Two studio stipends of the city of Zurich for Genoa in 1986 and New York in 1988 were followed by further grants from the city of Zurich. In 1995 he was awarded the Manor Art Prize and in 1998 he received an award from the Max Bill / Georges Vantongerloo Foundation, Zumikon/Zurich followed by the Aargauer Kunstpreis in 2009, the Willy Reber Kunstpreis in 2018 and a film about Beat Zoderer by Jürt Egli, titled "Zwischen Kalkül und Zufall". His installations, sculptures, assemblages and collages are constructed in ever new shapes, colours and materials. Zoderer thus moves towards a concrete and constructive position in art. His most recent solo exhibitions include *Faltungen und andere Ereignisse* at Kunstmuseum Ahlen, Germany and *Visuelle Interferenzen 1990 - 2020* at Kunsthalle Weishaupt, Ulm.

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

VON BARTHA

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and S-chanf, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

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