

'IT IS MORE LIKE A LABYRINTH'

Contemporary Fine Arts Berlin



...Says German artist **Michael Kunze** about his modernist approach to art as reflected in his latest exhibition

Varsha Naik

New media was growing while Michael Kunze was studying art, and his intensified interest in what was becoming a blind spot, made people look at him as if he was uneducated. "Such a stupid monotheistic view raises the spirit of opposition. So it got clearer and clearer that in painting would be my interest. And time always continues with this kind of dialectics: Where you have the blind spot you also have the hot spot," he says.

Michael's paintings, he says, have an anachronistic quality, ideally suited to investigating the hidden face of modernism, which is highlighted in his latest exhibition *Tick*, of international contemporary art on display in the city from Friday. The name is inspired by the moment — sound of the clock, going further one



second to the next second — a minimalistic bridge between these two opposing visions of (existential and historical) time.

He explains, "I like to mostly refer to quite complicated cultural-historical mind-crossings and tricky involvements of ideas that work in our world." Michael uses sun shades, empty swimming pools, sparse, fantasy and ruin landscapes reminiscent

of classical antiquity, with a stage-like theatricality in his work. His is a painting style reminiscent of old masters, with echoes of large historical and world panoramas, coupled with a repertory of motifs in an aesthetic manner.

Michael Kunze's paintings are filled with literary, philosophic, art historical and architectural reflections which he transfers into cryptic, irrational appearing scenes, architectural constructs or landscapes. Michael says, "In this style, lies all the motifs and historical references that present another image of the world other than the mainstream modernity we are accustomed to."

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When & Where:

December 14 - February 12,
Galerie Isa, Fort

NEW APPROACH