

APRIL 2012

## HARMONY



Acrylic 50 x 60 cm (2012)

The effect of the individual colours on our psyche is explored to a large extent, but as there are far more emotions than colours, complex expressions also need complex colour combinations and contrasts, shades from light to dark, contrasts of bigger to smaller surfaces and of course also specific forms. Even the stroke of the brush is an important and useful means of expression. Yet an unambiguous assignment of emotions and colours isn't possible, as the perception of colours varies from person to person, as well as the fact that emotions are defined individually. According to a study by Eva Heller for example 69 % of the people being questioned choose the colour red for the concept of 'eroticism', 13 % the colour pink, 10 % black and 8 % violet.

Although the colour red is dominant, at the same time black and violet are chosen as well, colours with completely different characteristics.

The colours red, pink, white and blue can be found in concepts of affection, harmony, closeness, friendship, friendliness or tenderness.

The term 'charity' would suit our picture quite well too.

At this point this peculiar term would have to be defined.

To love one fellow-man like oneself, is probably asking a bit too much from people, as your neighbour might be a nice person, but...

We feel fondness and affection very selectively, it's probably already asking a lot, when we accept and respect our fellow-man just the way he is.

We might get closer to the point using the term 'altruism' instead of 'Charity'. To be there for the other when he needs us, feeling for him, suffering with him and letting him know that we're close.

The Czech media philosopher Vilém Flusser (1920 - 1991) writes in his essay 'Charity' about the utopia that telematics, like face book, e-mail or mobile phones, bring modern people 'close' again. The distance can be overcome because 'people are basically longing for the lost, intact world. What else then would be the purpose of all the cables and networks if not to overcome the alienation and bring us closer'.

'But the most important message says, that we only find ourselves if we reach the other.'

The term 'do-gooder' is also bound to arise relative to the topic of 'charity', this being a type of person who's more interested in the wellbeing of dogs than that of his neighbour and who always knows what's right or wrong. He himself does a lot of good, maybe somewhere in Africa, and likes judging all others who don't. He's the measure of all that's good.

To quote Flusser again: 'It can't be a question anymore of man being the measure of all things within the dimensions of the universe, on the earth's surface he's temporary, a minuscule lobe of the biosphere.'