

# La Serenissima

## Cheerful, calm, serene and carefree

About the Venice series by Jörg Ernert, text by Esther Niebel

What lies hidden in things, in their foundation? Things that are there, that have an impact but remain unspoken and often unconscious. Completely intimate and yet shared with the whole world, a fully conscious longing and joy, and a deep, inexplicable attraction and magic. Elegant abundance and unapologetic simplicity, golden, illuminating light and white-grey mist. As you breathe in, the outside becomes the inside and allows you to participate: cheerful, calm, serene and carefree. The mystery of truth, clothed in beauty, smiles gently and generously - divided and hierarchical in representation, intimate and personal in its aberrations. If you receive generous gifts, sharing should not be difficult. The search for an expression to pass on this gift, to give it contemporary conciseness without negating its overwhelming eternity, leaves you almost speechless.



*Jörg Ernert, after Prout - Palazzo Contarini Fasan, 160 x 110 cm, 2019*

It is no longer the vedute that depict the city on a grand scale that we are looking for. We are looking for the small, personal section of an image, something close up, a detail that only contains hints of the large form. As you feel your way through the alleys, your gaze is distracted by a house wall that makes it unclear whether it is a dead end or whether it goes around the corner, where perhaps the water blocks the way. Or is there a



*Jörg Ernert, after Carpaccio - Rialto, 120 x 130 cm, 2023*

way to move forward, a bridge to the other side of the canal, an unexpected place that opens up? The paths do not follow any architectural planning, they follow the water veins that give the city its natural course. This works like a labyrinth: it overrides the will to control, which is trained in logic and its created structure, and forces you to let go and ultimately surrender. Getting involved with the natural, grown elements - a connection between earth and water that binds the horizon with the sea.

LA SERENISSIMA REPUBBLICA DI SAN MARCO. The city is an eternal promise, a joy, a mystery. She has the ability to enchant - her presence, or even the mere thought of her. What a task to pay homage to her through art. To place yourself between your personal experience and still strike the chord that evokes all the sensually stored emotions. The gentle beating of



*Jörg Ernert, after Carpaccio - Rialto, 120 x 130 cm, 2023*

the waves - the motorboat winding through the canals into the lagoon. The simultaneity of past eras and traditions and modern life. The comforting feeling of being part of a continuum of human culture that oscillates with repetition and changes over time.

Jörg Ernert repeatedly pays homage to the classics of art history by incorporating their motifs and rendering them with his own interpretation. In doing so, he changes the image size, the proportions, the line and, above all, the colour. Like an indication of a change in human perception that evolves from an external, sensual to an inner emotional, light-determined perception. And again and again it turns out that this view, this

sensation, this light situation is only one of many possibilities. As the living gaze wanders, it alternately focuses on the church in the background or the figures walking through the archway. The building façades lose their stability and become a backdrop, a stage where the boat docks in the evening sun to unload the last goods. Venice is so far the only place that has inspired Jörg Ernert to create afterimages as well as his own motifs. In doing so, he engages with a past that has already vanished and is yet simultaneously present in order



*Jörg Ernert, Venedig Hoflicht, version II., 120 x 120 cm, 2019*

to reproduce it with this ambiguous appearance. Humility and assertion: the human dilemma between old and new. Where is it better expressed than in this place? That's why it's so important, especially here, to leave behind the traditional forms.

The motifs that Ernert develops reflect a contemporary view. It is the close detail of the image, the everyday life that can be found between the magnificent façades: the prow of a boat, a Venetian window from which a clothes line extends out of the picture and on which real items of laundry and their shadows create a deceptive confusion. Just a detail, a hint that calls out to the viewer the mystery of its location and makes them a co-initiate.



*Jörg Ernert, after Piranesi - Porto, 210 x 280 cm, 2023*