

Jürg Halter

Location: Hotel Bellevue-Terminus, attic

“You cannot not communicate.” Paul Watzlawick’s axiom sounds so plausible that it has become a commonplace. With Jürg Halter’s work, the message can be grasped at a glance. And Halter can withstand paradoxes: “The picture of the picture of the picture in you” is written on his new work.

The Swiss artist, who also makes music and, more recently, video films, knows his way around images and words. After studying art in Bern, he first turned to language. He performed as a spoken word artist, then wrote poems, essays and prose, commenting on his everyday life and world events.

Now he paints texts and writes pictures. “Fuck slogans”, “too much language” or “A picture worth a thousand words has an unspeakable need to communicate” can be read on his canvases. An author who tells you in black and white that there is too much language puts himself in need of an explanation. And because one cannot not communicate, Halter spreads slogans and simply adds three more words to what is already too much. In *Backstage Engelberg*, he combines image and video for the first time. The background in each case is the color on which the text is written. Halter’s text works are an open field; depending on the context, what can be read between or behind the lines changes. He uses visual means to criticize language and opens up a discussion about the relationship between image and text. Halter is certain that a picture worth a thousand words has an unspeakable need to communicate. You just have to choose the words wisely enough.

Jürg Halter was born in 1980 in Bern, Switzerland, where he lives and works. He studied art in Bern, performed as a spoken word artist, and has published poetry and prose with Ammann Verlag, Wallstein Verlag and Dörlemann Verlag, among others. He has collaborated with huber.huber and Ester Vonplon. His pictures have been shown in Switzerland at the Robert Walser Center, Bern (2023), the Musée Ariana, Geneva (2020), and the Trudelhaus Baden (2020), among others.

Further information: juerghalter.com