

# JHAVERI CONTEMPORARY

---

*Registered Office*  
AM art India Pvt. Ltd  
26 B.G. Kher Marg  
Mumbai 400 006  
India

*Administrative Office*  
504B Dharam Palace  
100/103 N.S. Patkar Marg  
Mumbai 400 007  
India

+91 22 2369 3639  
info@jhavericontemporary.com  
www.jhavericontemporary.com

---

## **Michael Müller**

For All Those Who Trust in Form and Not in Content  
January 3-28, 2017

Jhaveri Contemporary is delighted to present 'For All Those Who Trust in Form and Not in Content', a solo exhibition by Berlin-based artist Michael Müller, his second at the gallery. Müller has received significant attention recently with his unorthodox exhibition cycle, '18 Exhibitions,' which began at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, in 2013. (So far, the cycle has consisted of 20 exhibitions and performances that revolve around Robert Musil's novel, *The Man Without Qualities*, among other influences.)

Michael Müller's works neither lend themselves to a common conceptual denominator nor order themselves into an easily identifiable formal language. Instead, exhibitions are marked by variety, heterogeneity, and ambiguity. 'Languages' of art are presented side-by-side and with equal emphasis: the result of a process of testing, combining, and varying. An example of Müller's preoccupation with questions of authorship is the title of his exhibition, 'Wer Spricht?' ('Who is Speaking?'), the artist's first institutional solo at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin (2015/16).

Three bodies of work in 'For All Those Who Trust in Form and Not in Content' testify to the plurality and heterogeneity of Müller's practice: the formally reduced and conceptually driven etchings, *Verschwinden*; the more 'decorative' installations of the *Do It!* series; and, lastly, expressive, figurative paintings like *Small Indian Girl*.

### *Verschwinden (to vanish)*

The suite of 11 aquatint etchings on Japanese paper, printed with a light-sensitive pigment developed particularly for this work. Over the course of time, the tone of these sleek and high-quality pink prints, ordered from light to dark flats and dark to light borders, will fade away. The etchings engage not only materially (through the fading of the pigment), but also formally (through the gradation of the pinks) with tone and intensity. In a metaphorical turn, they speak to the 'vanitas' theme of classical art history, relinquishing claims to an eternal, timeless validity.

### *Do It!*

On two walls in the central gallery hang paintings from the series *Do It!*. Consisting of pastose structured, small-format acrylic monochromes, they are painted, per Müller's instructions, in the colour of the walls on which they hang. In this case, they become purple and turquoise. In the next exhibition, they will be painted over with another colour. Wall and work are thus re-synchronized with one another, *ton-sur-ton*. Also included in the exhibition are two new jigsaw puzzles. Working with readymade puzzles, Müller coats the surface of *his* framed puzzles with real gold leaf, concealing their original image. The new surfaces of *False and Real* and *For All*

*Those Who Trust in Form and Not in Content* are now more valuable than the motifs in the original picture could ever be.

*Small Indian Girl (The Copy of an Unknown Artist), pretending to be a female artist*

The painting shows a childlike figure, rendered once again in pink. The figure struggles to cart the form of a breast over a mountain: an image of the feminine, somewhere between a backpack and handcart. Stylistically, the painting engages with the relationship between quotation, homage, and plagiarism (here referring to the tradition of Philip Guston and similar painters). The artist's choice of motif – at once allegorical, political and quasi-feminist – draws attention to questions of cultural and gender identity, as also to the place of women in traditional male-dominated societies.

Born in Ingelheim am Rhein in 1970, **Michael Müller** lives and works in Berlin. He studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf under Magdalena Jetelová. Recent institutional solo exhibitions include 'Skits. 13 Exhibitions in 9 Rooms' at the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (on view through 19 February 2017) and 'Wer Spricht?' at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2015/2016). Michael Müller is also one of the founders of the Kunstsaele Berlin, which opened in 2010. Since 2015 he has taught as a professor the Universität der Künste, Berlin.