

bernd pfarr

Sondermann

„The exciting thing about Sondermann, is that he’s actually a slick dude.“ (Bernd Pfarr)

Mr Sondermann is a pitiful office worker who’s charmingly naïve and seems to have continually found himself in absurd situations in the satirical magazine “Titanic” between 1987 and 2004. He’s without a doubt Bernd Pfarrs’ most well known character.

Mr Sondermann’s special trademark is, that he’s just not special. “A slick dude”, as Bernd Pfarr likes to put it. Even more exotic though are his experiences – like when he buys a sofa filled with quick sand into which he then sank, or when he falls onto rubber plants whilst on a daring expedition. „Au Backe!“ is what the reader says at this point, and in doing so uses one of those aging expressions of which Pfarr also likes to use.

Mr Sondermann doesn’t really serve Bernd Pfarr as a caricature being a common senseless office jerk – he much more prefers to play with the humorous and absurd potential of everyday goings-on. He created a swaying condition between reality and fantasy, in which certain things in our lives are unfamiliar, but then eventually come to light.

The surfaces of Bernd Pfarr’s pictures flitter with a certain nostalgia and security – his odd style is hidden within, as becomes clear to the observer on closer inspection, full of proof of current art and from days gone by. The pieces are also full of laidback melancholy, with Pfarr’s protagonists trying to live their lonely and somehow lost, quirky lives, just hanging on to their dreams or being haunted by untouchable fears. “Au Backe!” or “Duftel!” mumbled an observer again and again, delighted by the ring of these almost forgotten words.

Bernd Pfarr not only creates comics by twisting and pushing reality, but also by confronting opposites and connecting incompatibles. Then suddenly nothing is impossible, and even Mr Sondermann’s almost unbearably banal but somehow worthy existence wins magical qualities – like when he gets on his esoteric-trip, or begins to be incredibly sensitive and learns how one drinks green tea correctly on the neighbour’s compost heap.