



Martin Eder

The Fountain of Youth

3/11 – 8/12 2023

DSC Gallery, Dlouhá 5, Praha 1

Martin Eder presents his second solo exhibition at DSC Gallery, where the exhibition's title, *"Fountain of Youth"*, already reveals its thematic focus. Eder's work was previously showcased in DSC Gallery in 2021 as part of the exhibition *"The Unreal"*. His controversial hyperrealistic paintings once again explore a topic that pains us the most – the transience of youth. Eder's artistic style is unmistakable. He moves beyond his classic works with darker themes full of iconographic symbols. This time, he brings beauty and youth to the forefront. Who wouldn't want to drink the living water and so become immortal? Deliberately, he alludes to the fanatical obsessions and latest trends on Instagram. Or have we desired eternal life since ancient times?

The symbolism is clear. Sunlight, reflection, and flowers. Bathing figures in the nude, with wet skin and hair, gaze at their own reflection in the water, shimmering with a nostalgic aura. The rejuvenating power of the fountain reminds us of our mortality – the reflection of eternal youth. Wilting flowers embody the transience of life and gradual decay. The perfection of Eder's craftsmanship evokes a haptic impression in us; we feel the urge to touch the polished gold and delicate fur. In Martin Eder's own words: *"I am not attempting to criticize the cult of youth and beauty with this exhibition – rather, I am enticing our senses not to fear succumbing to this illusion. Through reflections and symbolic objects, I capture the timeless desire for immortality and its fleeting essence."* Besides these figures, the viewer also encounters the tousled fur of innocent creatures from the animal kingdom. The depicted figures leave an almost painful impression.

"The premises of DSC Gallery will once again feature an ethereal cycle of works by painter and mystic Martin Eder. In his exhibition entitled "The Fountain of Youth", Eder's hyperrealistic paintings will feature themes which have always fascinated him: from within the elixir of youth will emerge creatures, animals and phantasms with perfect skin or fur, untouched by time, entirely undisrupted and eternally perfect.", adds gallery curator Karolína Juřicová.

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We undergo spa and wellness treatments with the hope that we will get one step closer to immortality. Martin Eder views this approach through the lens of digital technologies which help generate fictional avatars. It is becoming increasingly impossible to distinguish between reality and AI-generated images. Eder's brushstrokes are becoming more and more refined while he uses his colour palette to conjure up a pantheon of unreal gods.

Martin Eder was born in 1968 in Augsburg, Germany. He attended art school in Nuremberg, Kassel, and spent several years studying at the Academy in Dresden. Martin Eder ranks among the most prominent German artists of his generation and is widely regarded as one of the most influential and controversial figures in contemporary painting. He specializes in hyperrealistic painting and is known for his ability to perceive beauty in unprecedented contrasts. Eder's works transport viewers into mysterious realms of dreams and fantasy, often featuring young women in lascivious poses. In their presence, furry companions and mythical creatures appear. While the decorative images may seem part of a kitschy idyll, their isolation leads to ominous impressions. The tactile fur of cute animals, the sensuality of women, and everyday situations: all of these Martin Eder transforms into stoic peculiarity. His art has been exhibited in renowned institutions such as Kunsthalle Mannheim, Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, and MoMA in New York. He was represented by the prestigious Hauser & Wirth gallery in London and works with Galerie Eigen+Art in Berlin. Internationally acclaimed artist Damien Hirst invited him to exhibit at his Newport Street Gallery in London in 2018. In 2022, he presented the largest retrospective exhibition titled *"Moloch"* in his hometown Augsburg at Kunstsammlungen Museen Augsburg. He considers the exhibition he is showcasing at Prague's DSC Gallery in early November as the highlight of this year. His paintings were also featured in the recent Art Frieze 2023 in London, where he was selected by the international platform Artsy as one of the top 15 presentations of this year's event.

Selection of exhibitions:

- 2023 "Dix und Die Gegenwart", Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany
- 2023 "Elysium", Galerie Eigen + Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2023 "Karmageddon", TICK TACK, Antwerpen, Belgium
- 2022 "Moloch", Kunstsammlungen Museen Augsburg, Germany
- 2022 "The Spirit is Weak, but the Flesh is Willing", HENI Gallery Leviathan, London, UK
- 2021 "Phantasma", Galerie Eigen + Art Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
- 2020 "Animals in Art", ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 "Parasites", Newport Street Gallery, London, UK
- 2017 "Psychic", Mudam, Luxembourg
- 2015 "Those Bloody Colours", Galerie Eigen + Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 "Monsters of Silence", Gallery Isa, Mumbai, India
- 2013 "The Collective Unconscious", Hauser Wirth, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2013 "Painting Forever! BubeDameKönugAss", Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 "ASYMMETRY", Galerie Eigen + Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 "Martin Eder. Ugly", Galerie Eigen + Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2009 Hauser Wirth London, London, England, UK
- 2009 Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany
- 2009 "Der dunkle Ground", Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden, Germany

Selection of group exhibitions held in the Czech Republic:

- 2021 "German Painting Now", Telegraph Gallery, Olomouc
- 2018 "Man to Man by Man, Wortner's House", Alšova South Bohemian Gallery, České Budějovice
- 2017 "Disrupted Imagination: Making Windows Where There Were Once Walls", House of Art, Ostrava
- 2013 "Nightfall: New Tendencies in Figurative Painting", Rudolfinum Gallery, Prague
- 2009 "Underground Stream: Jiří Straka, Martin Eder, Jonathan Meese, Josef Bolf", Rudolfinum Gallery, Prague



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