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Martin Eder

The Unreal

Duration: 8 September – 6 October 2021

Curator: Jane Neal

DSC Gallery, Dlouhá 5, Prague 1

DSC Gallery is delighted to present the first solo exhibition of Martin Eder in the Czech Republic with the title *The Unreal* in which he collaborates with the renowned British curator Jane Neal. Martin Eder ranks among the most remarkable German artists of his generation and is generally seen as one of the most influential and controversial contemporary painters.

In this exhibition, Eder examines the realm of 'the unreal' – the realm of imagination, phantasy, dreams, and the subconscious. 'His work is strongly anchored in the classical genres of art history. Even a fleeting glance at Eder's art clearly shows that the artist's expression is predominantly based on symbolism and the employment of all of the aspects of art and media history,' the curator Jane Neal observes. He combines *vanitas* symbols and romantic landscapes, Christian iconography, and the aesthetic of animated gifs. In addition to the Baroque still life principles, in which each object has a certain meaning, the artist uses elements with profusion and hyperbole that are nearly painful and intentionally eliminate the border between sensual eroticism and the disturbing embodiment of human desires.

The exhibition's title interconnects the past with the future and the mythical with the subconscious. Eder continues to expand upon the imagination of ancient Egyptians. The feline goddess Maefdet was regarded as the protector of the underworld and worldly horrors. It is therefore not very surprising that the artist decided to display the hairless Sphynx cats next to his Medusas. Yet now, the 'unreal' becomes an alternative 'reality' – a virtual landscape of absorbing experiences mediated via social media. He comes from the ancient Egypt practices all the way to present-day ground-breaking technologies. He touches on experiencing one's own reality in the context of the actual social media trends – Instagram and TikTok. He uses superficially attractive aesthetics to question the 'high art' status.

Martin Eder, a trained professional and student of hypnosis, is fascinated by the power of phantasy and its borders. He draws from the rich sources of esotericism, dreams, and hallucinogenic experimentation. He is captivated by the gap of human thoughts and desires and how we inevitably fall victims to our own impulses. Eder's painting is based on photographs he takes himself, which together with his illusory technique places his personality in the centre of the stories. He paints pictures that are comprehensive for society while they criticise it at the same time. On the one hand, he plunders the depths of the post-modern waste, while on the other hand he tries to prompt us to analyse and evaluate his work, as if analysing an archaeological artefact or a scientific finding. He deconstructs the surrounding world by questioning the paintings that are presented as the icons of beauty and attractiveness. As described by Martin Eder: 'My paintings should seduce the audience, the same as magicians seduce us with their tricks.'

DSC Gallery

'After more than a decade on the Czech gallery scene, we decided to continuously present foreign artists. We are interested in the dialogue between the international art and Czech artists; therefore, it is our strategy to place them within a dialogue. We collaborate with the British curator Jane Neal and other independent curators and gallerists on our exhibition programme concept. We seek to continuously offer exclusiveness to visitors, collectors, and all art lovers,' the gallery's director Edmund Čučka explains. Following the successful presentation of the artists Alexander Tinei (MD), Norbert Stefan (RO), Dennis Scholl (DE), and Pavel Pepperstein (RU), the gallery presents the world-acclaimed artist Martin Eder (DE) who is holding his first solo exhibition in the Czech Republic.

Martin Eder

is a German artist born in Augsburg, Germany, in 1968. He studied at the art school in Nuremberg, Kassel, and primarily at the Dresden Academy with Professor Eberhard Bosslet where he spent several years. He pursues hyperrealist painting and is well known for his enthusiasm and viewing beauty in unparalleled contrasts. The works of Martin Eder take the spectator to the mythical worlds of dreams and phantasy that are often dominated by young women in lascivious positions, accompanied by hairy pets and mythical creatures. While it seems that decorative paintings belong to the kitsch idyll, their isolation results in a dreadful situation. Martin Eder turns the haptic hair of cute animals, women's sensuality, and everyday situations into a stoic weirdness.

Eder's work has also been displayed at Kunsthalle Mannheim, Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He was represented by the London branch of the world's most famous gallery Hauser & Wirth during 2009 – 2013. At the present, he collaborates with the prestigious König Galerie (they organised his exhibition TRANCELUCENSE in Tokyo in 2020) and Galerie Eigen+Art. The world-famous London artist Damien Hirst invited him to exhibit at Newport Street Gallery in London in 2018 – the exhibition was called PARASITES. This year, he will appear at the HENI Gallery in London and next year he shall hold an exhibition at Kunstsammlungen & Museen Augsburg in his hometown Augsburg. Martin Eder lives and works in Berlin. His music alter ego Richard Ruin is part of the experimental rock band Richard Ruin & Les Demoniques.

Studies:

Fachhochschule Augsburg, 1986–1992
Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg, 1993–1995
GHK Kassel University, 1995–1996
College for Visual Arts Dresden, 1996–1999

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2021 The Spirit is weak, but the Flesh is willing, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK
The Unreal, DSC Gallery, Praha, Czech Republic
PHANTASMA, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Germany
2020 The Antinferno, Galery AKI, Taipei, Taiwan
Trancelucense, KÖNIG GALERIE, Tokyo
2019 Dystopia, Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin, Germany
2018 Parasites, London Newport Street Gallery, London, UK
2017 Martyrium, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Germany
PSYCHIC, MUDAM Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Above Us Only Sky, Mönchehaus Museum Goslar, Germany
PHENOMENA, ProjectB Gallery, Milano, Italy
2016 La Vida es Sueño, Galeria Hilario Galguera, Mexico City, Mexico
2015 Those Bloody Colours, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin, Germany
2013 The Collective Unconscious, Galerie Hauser & Wirth, Zurich, Switzerland
Gallery Isa, *Monsters of Silence*, Mumbai, India
2012 Asymmetry, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin, Germany
2009 Der dunkle Grund, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Galerie Neue Meister
2008 Die Armen, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany /
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, Den Haag, The Netherlands
2008 Mönchehaus Museum of Modern Art, *Martin Eder. The arms*, Goslar, Germany
Kunsthalle Mannheim, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, *Martin Eder. Photography:
The arms*, Germany / Netherlands 2007 Galerie Eigen + Art, Leipzig, Germany
2006 Galerie Eigen + Art, *The poor*, Berlin, Germany, Marianne Boesky Gallery, *La Paix du Cul*,
New York

DSC Gallery

Selection of Group Exhibitions in the Czech Republic:

- 2021 German Painting Now, Telegraph Gallery, Olomouc
2018 *Člověk člověku člověkem*, Wortnerův dům Alšovy jihočeské galerie, České Budějovice (České Budějovice)
2017 *Narušená imaginace / Disruptive imagination: Making Windows Where There Were Once Walls*, Dům umění, Ostrava
2013 *Soumrak: Nové tendence ve figurativní malbě / Nightfall: New Tendencies in Figurative Painting*, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague
2009 Spodní proud. Jiří Straka, Martin Eder, Jonathan Meese, Josef Bolf, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague

Selection of Group international exhibitions

- 2021 We are Animals, Kunsthall Rotterdam, Belgium
Wild und Schön, Tiere in der Kunst, Kunsthalle Emden, Germany
2020 Animals in Art, ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
How beautiful you are!, KINDL, Berlin, Germany
2019 Kopf an Kopf_Portraits von Gerhard Fietz bis Andy Warhol, Lüneburg, Germany
2018 Alex Katz-Martin Eder, Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad, Switzerland
NGORONGORO II, Artist Weekend – Lehderstrasse 34, Berlin, Germany
A Man is a Man to another Man, South Bohemian Gallery, Budweis, Czech Republic
Neue Schwarze Romantik, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis in Bregenz, Austria / Topicuv Salon, Prague, Czech Republic
2017 Schlaf – Eine produktive Zeitverschwendung, Museen Böttcherstraße, Bremen,
New Black Romanticism, Stadtgalerie Kiel, Kiel, Germany / Kunstraum Bethanien,
Berlin / Muzeul National de Artă al României, Bucharest, Romania / Galerie der Stadt
Backnang, Germany
2016 Body & Soul, Essl Museum – Kunst der Gegenwart, Klosterneuburg, Austria
Bittersü.e Zeiten – Barock und Gegenwart, Edwin Scharff Museum, Neu-Ulm,
2015 Das Unendliche im Endlichen. Romantik und Gegenwart, Kunstsammlung Jena
2014 Alles Schön und Gut?, Gerisch Stiftung, Neumünster, Germany