

KÖNIG GALERIE

TREY ABDELLA
GROWING PAINS

25 SEPTEMBER – 18 OCTOBER 2020
ST. AGNES | CHAPEL

KÖNIG GALERIE presents GROWING PAINS, the first solo exhibition of the American artist Trey Abdella in Germany. On display are six new large-format works.

An angry child, sad teenagers, an abandoned lover, and cute dogs, those are Abdella's protagonists. He brings fits of rage from positively miserable tales about the pains of coming of age and bad days to the canvas. A boy mutates into a werewolf and squirts glue all over his desk, unable to control his fury at the world. In the pocket of his jeans is a note, written overconfidently for a girl to fill out. "Do you like me?", he wants to find out, and is certain he already knows the answer. There are two options to choose from: Yes. Definitely. The box "never", that was added to the note, is checked. Pain and suffering triggered by rejection, uncertainty, and death torment Abdella's heroes, who seek certainty, protection, and comfort. But going to a fortune teller only leads to a vague prediction of the future: New doors will open. Life will end tragically.

In GROWING PAINS Abdella explores the shortcomings of the human condition whilst maxing out his chosen medium of painting. "When someone sees my work, I want them to feel like they have just won a stuffed animal from their third attempt at a claw machine," Abdella says. He works with acrylic paint, airbrush, materials and textures, melding the analogue with the dialogue as he uses digital tools and analogue objects. He applies fake leaves and beads, wigs and strings, fabrics and jeans to the canvas. He merges assemblage with painting, and hyper-realism with cartoons. His paintings are oversaturated with influences and references from art history and pop culture of the past century. "Cutting You Off", for example, reproduces one of the key scenes from the 1992 film "Death Suits You" with Meryl Streep in the lead role. And in "Sunny Days" Andie and Blane, the unequal couple from the teenage romance "Pretty in Pink" (1986), lie in each other's arms in mourning. Abdella appropriates film scenes and processes them in his coming-of-age story, which begins with happy childhood days and ends with the death of a loved one.

Painting in the post-digital age becomes a mashup in Abdella's work, a collage of film quotes, cartoon characters and consumer goods. He celebrates the remix culture of the internet in his pictures.

Trey Abdella (*1994) is an artist based in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from the School of Visual Arts for his BFA and went on to get his masters from the New York Academy of Art. Abdella's works have been displayed in several solo and group exhibitions in the United States and Europe, among others the group shows "Ultra Light Beams" at Mount Analogue, Seattle (2019) and "Universes 2" at The Garage, Amsterdam (2019). He was a fellow of the Leipzig International Art Programme in 2018 and served as the 2019-2020 Chubb post graduate fellow at the New York Academy of Art.

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OPENING HOURS
TUE – SAT 10 AM – 6 PM
SUN 12 – 6 PM
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
ON KOENIGGALERIE.COM

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Abdella's work has been shown in several solo and group exhibitions in galleries throughout the United States and Europe. Among others, a solo show at T293 Gallery (2018), another one is planned for 2021, and group shows such as "Ultra Light Beams" at Mount Analogue, Seattle (2019) and "Universes 2" in The Garage, Amsterdam (2019).

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