

GALERIE GISELA CAPITAIN

UWE HENNEKEN

Welcome back to where we are

September 4 - October 31, 2020

If you have felt lately like this may be the end of time, but have wondered if it might also mark the beginning of a seismic shift which will make everything new again, you are not alone.

Each day in this emerging world something old or unnecessary is getting reinterpreted or reimagined. Recreating ourselves in divided times, where an opinion expressed is often immediately opposed, takes belief and imagination. I think of the hero of Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story *Gimple The Fool*, whose foolishness was faith disguised in a world that thought itself wise. Singer later wrote that artists had "the spark of the prophet" and suggested when that spark is combined with hope the artist could perhaps rescue civilization.

Artists have the ability to document the hills, contours, and contradictions of the new social landscape. Uwe Henneken has a sincere authority to communicate and question and, like Singer and his protagonist (in paint), is often a prophet, pilgrim, or fool. Berlin-based painter Uwe Henneken renders mystical landscapes as psychedelic-colored rest stops for odd wanderers just outside kingdoms forgotten or yet to be found. Henneken's heroes, like us, appear between worlds, if not exiled from paradise, unable to return to where they came from.

In his new book titled, *Always Returning*, Henneken documents nine years of his work from a show of the same title that just ended at the Kunsthalle in Giessen, Germany. In one essay, Henneken describes his personal and artistic journey in stages -- reflective period, bottom, letting go, and, ultimately, a breakthrough. In his artistic work, lone figures and contented multi-colored creatures are exiled to make room for opulent spirit doors, transcendent floating portals, and mystical orbs. The newest work shimmers from within and suggests answers to the riddle: What is the role of an artist in a world weirder or stranger than the painting can portray?

Henneken said we are all on some kind of spiritual path and the more people proceed with awareness on that journey the clearer it gets, while the lesser we do the longer it takes. As we each evolve the world mirrors that back.

Text: Benjamin Terrell

Galerie Gisela Capitain is delighted to announce its fifth solo exhibition with German artist Uwe Henneken. Henneken, born 1974 in Paderborn, lives and works in Berlin.