

KÖNIG GALERIE

BASIM MAGDY

RENEGADE DREAMS HANGING FROM THE CLOUDS

30 OCTOBER – 22 NOVEMBER 2020

ST. AGNES | CHAPEL

The KÖNIG GALERIE is excited to present the first solo exhibition of Basim Magdy in St. Agnes. Eight works on canvas as well as a video work will be shown at the CHAPEL.

In Basim Magdy's film *New Acid*, the animals communicate with each other via text message, just like people. The lemurs plan their exit from the animal kingdom; a pensive sea lion contemplates the immateriality of Bitcoins; and close by, a hippopotamus monologises about weight complexes. At first sight, *New Acid* seems to be about humour and banality, but clearly the film soon enters the realms of more pressing issues: nationalism, racism, social hierarchies. Basim Magdy sets out to visualise our usual communication structures and show that all forms of society, no matter how open they may seem, are guided by similar structures and power relations.

While *New Acid* centres on the world of pure words, with chats as the new reality, Magdy's paintings also focus on surreal stories and alternative realities, dealing with the extinction of the world, animal species that never existed, and past predictions of the apocalypse. What became of the prophecies that never actually happened? What if you – and the three lemurs – arrive at the gateway to the other world and find it doesn't open?

Driven by the urge to escape, Basim Magdy views the world as an archive with many openings but also a number of dead ends. Rather than focusing merely on what has been, he also explores what might have been and what never was.

Basim Magdy was born in Assuit, Egypt, in 1977 and lives and works in Basel and Cairo. In recent years, Magdy has created multifaceted works of video art and photography. The exhibition *Renegade Dreams Hanging from the Clouds* at the KÖNIG GALERIE is the first extensive examination of his paintings. Magdy's works can be found at MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Guggenheim in New York, the MCA Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Basim Magdy invites you to alter the pictures and videos you will take in the exhibition. Create your own memes, narratives, parodies or text message conversations to tell different stories and to express how the work made you feel. Share your creations on Instagram using #DearBasim and tag @koeniggalerie and @Basim.Magdy.

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