

ARCOmadrid 2023 (Booth #9A07) and Special Project with Teresa Margolles (Booth #9A03) Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich

For immediate release

At the 2023 edition of ARCOmadrid Galerie Peter Kilchmann is presenting a selection of new works by artists from the gallery program: Francis Alÿs, Maja Bajevic, Monica Bonvicini, Andriu Deplazes, Christoph Hefti, Leiko Ikemura, Dagoberto Rodríguez, Zilla Leutenegger, Teresa Margolles, Paul Mpagi Sepuya. An artist project booth by Teresa Margolles showing her breath-taking intervention "Blowback / The Power" (2022) will be exhibited in booth 9A03.

FRANCIS ALÿS (b. 1959 in Belgium. Lives and works in Mexico City.)

The work of Alÿs is based on actions proposed or practiced by the artist that unfold into videos, photographs, drawings, and paintings. Often evoking a feeling of absurdity or unreason, his works critically research political, social, and economic situations in contemporary life. The installation "Lynchings" follows on from Alÿs's continuous reflection on zones of conflicts and the role of the artist as a perceiver and witness. The installation consists of a small-scaled painting and a showcase that invites the observer to follow the story told by the artist through original drawings and newspaper cut outs. The painting as well as the different vivid elements in the showcase illustrate captured moments of infamous lynchings in Latin America. Those lynchings saw an increase across the region in the 1990s and are still going strong.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/francis-aly>

MAJA BAJEVIC (Bosnia-Herzegovina / France, b. 1967 in Sarajevo) The light installation "we are all UNEqual" belongs to an ongoing series of LED-lights that speak of inequalities and discrimination. It is closely interwoven with Bajevic's installation "To be continued - We" from 2014, for which she collected short, concise slogans from the great social and political uprisings of the 20th century. Here, too, the phrase is of almost evocative power. "We are all UNEqual" - the flickering LED light and the strong color trigger a feeling of unease and make the meaning of the words strike us even more intensely. Since the mid-1990s, Bajevic has been working on a range of different issues, encompassing globalization, inclusion/exclusion, exploitation, neo-liberalism and their reciprocal effects. At the same time, she repeatedly raises the issue of personal identity and homeland, and how these are constituted or "made impossible". A sense of indeterminacy and impermanence is a carefully engineered aspect of Bajevic's atmospheric but politically sighted work. Informed by the artist's own migratory life, previous works emphasized her interest in the contingent nature of political stability. Addressing themes like the abuse of power and religion, migration and marginalization of the foreign, and the tension between local and global, her oeuvre can also be positioned within the tradition of art that performs a social, informative function and focuses on changing prevalent convictions.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/maja-bajevic>

MONICA BONVICINI (b. 1965 in Venice, Italy. Lives and works in Berlin.) is one of the most vital artists to have emerged during the mid 1990s. She has been investigating political, social, and institutional conditions and their impact both on society and on the conditions of artistic production. At the heart of her work we find subjects such as architecture, gender roles, control mechanisms, and diapositives of power, as well as how these behave in relation to one another. Using sculpture, installation, video, photography, text and performance, her work ranges from the intimate to the architectural in scale, questioning some of the often-hidden forces that shape identity. Bonvicini's solo exhibition "Elegance and Crime" at Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin is on view until April 30, 2023.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/monica-bonvicini>

ANDRIU DEPLAZES (b. 1993 in Zurich. Lives and works in Marseille and Zurich.) is one of the most promising painters in Switzerland. The just 28 years old artist graduated from the Zurich University of the Arts in 2016 and has since won several awards, including the Manor Art Prize (2019) and the Visarte Atelier Scholarship Cité des Arts, Paris (2021). His paintings already show great maturity and stylistic confidence despite his young age. Established styles, such as the parallelism and symbolism by Ferdinand Hodler or the rebellious aesthetics of Pierre Bonnard and Les Nabis, are translated into a contemporary visual language with a pronounced irony. Colourful domestic scenes in powerful large formats are the setting for curious characters who melt into the vegetation around them or appear strangely remote from it. The pale, melancholic figures contrast with their colourful background and a wide horizon often appears to glow in the depth of the perspective.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/andriu-deplazes>

CHRISTOPH HEFTI (b. 1967 Lausanne, Switzerland. Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium and Zurich, Switzerland.) After studying textiles in Zurich and fashion in London, he began designing for Jean-Paul Gaultier in Paris and Dries Van Noten in Antwerp. After a few years, he decided to work as a freelancer for various fashion houses. This move also allowed him to continue his artistic work. His love for knotted carpets showed him to Nepal, where he has been designing and developing his own series of hand-knotted carpets for several years. During these visits, he seeks direct interaction with the artisans and is fascinated by the exchange of content and textile implementation. He approaches the mystical and even spiritual tradition of the storytelling carpet around its very personal yet worldly themes. "Animal Foot" is one such a carpet by Christoph Hefti. It is fair trade manufactured in Nepal with wool, silk and hemp it depicts the claw on an animal in a natural landscape. Each finger of this animal's claw has the head of a bird. Although the creature's body and face cannot be seen, its tail is clearly visible, swinging across the composition. Christoph Hefti studied fashion and textiles at the Zurich University of the Arts and at Central St. Martin's, London. Since 2015 he has dedicated himself to textiles, carpets and ceramics as a freelance artist. Major exhibitions include Dries Van Noten in Los Angeles; Joyce in Hong Kong; galleries and at design fairs.

LEIKO IKEMURA (b. 1951 in Tsu City, Mie Prefecture, Japan. Lives and works in Berlin and Cologne.) We were honored to celebrate the inauguration of our gallery space in Paris on October 15 with a solo show by Leiko Ikemura "New Girls ou Les Filles Difficiles". The exhibition remains on view until December 22, 2022. Ikemura is a Japanese-Swiss dual citizen. She emigrated to Europe in 1973. Formative memories from her native Japan find as much resonance as the impressions from her early stays in Spain and Switzerland in the 1970's and 80's, which accompany her to this day. The intimate metamorphosis of a lifelong painting process manifests itself in landscapes in which human figures and nature merge, amorphous forms and hybrid mythical creatures find themselves in a state of continuous transformation. "Girls" is a series characteristic of her painting, showing female figures in an undefined landscape. The figures seem vulnerable and unreachable. As if trapped in an intermediate world, they linger in their own melancholic mind games. <https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/leiko-ikemura>

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/leiko-ikemura>

DAGOBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (b. 1969 in Caibarién, Las Villas, Cuba. Lives and works in Madrid, Spain.) b. 1969 in Caibarién, Las Villas, Cuba. Lives and works in Madrid, Spain.)'s works have in recent years been focusing on human hostility, enmity relations and the tragedy of contemporary armed conflicts. In his watercolours, installations and video works Rodríguez addresses the strategies of power through the use of devices of repression, control and dominance over the social body. The watercolor on paper work «Azul» explores the boundaries between the

idea of a tunnel and the living spaces. "The drawings are a kind of logbook, a newspaper whose function is to visualize everything that might be possible. My work behaves like a file of ideas for future projects. Some are very abstract and may never be realized, but for me as an artist, this daily task of registration is important because it keeps me in touch with my ideas and allows me to reconnect with themes from the past that I may have forgotten." As so often in Dagoberto Rodríguez's works, the artist combines architecture, design and sculpture with playful irony to comment on core topics in art, politics and society. Galerie Peter Kilchmann is delighted to present his second solo exhibition «Solar Storm», and the first in France, by Dagoberto Rodríguez at our new Paris gallery opening on February 17.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/dagoberto-rodriguez>

ZILLA LEUTENEGGER (*1968 in Zurich, Switzerland; lives and works in Zurich and Soazza.) "*Taps Out*" is the name of a series of ceramic works shown for the first time in the exhibition *I Love You to the Moon and Back* in Galerie Peter Kilchmann, 2023. Each work depicts an individually designed tap and has a characteristic title or rather name. Their uniqueness allows them to appear as if they have grown naturally out of the surface, like branches. The tap itself echoes past works, such as *Broken Kitchen* (2022) or *Tropf, Tropf* (2018), and shows the artist's interest in spatiality and playing with the third dimension. The intriguing thing about the work *Taps Out* is its serial character at first glance, but on closer inspection it is repeatedly interrupted by the subtle differences between the taps. From the early start of her career the focus of her artistic repertoire is the repeated discourse of space, the person in relation to space and the relation between space and light: drawings grow out of the plain and merge with sculptures and video projections into three-dimensional installations. Zilla Leutenegger is foremost known for her signature drawing style, made up of clear, bold strokes and strong color accents. Dried trickles of acrylic paint tell the story of the drawing's creation and are often incorporated into the picture.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/zilla-leutenegger>

TERESA MARGOLLES (b. 1963 in Culiacán, Mexico. Lives and works in Madrid, Spain.) The work "Blowback/The Power" shows an evening dress in the glamorous style worn by young women in beauty contests in Mexico. The dress was designed and elaborated by Alberto Scaal, a designer from Culiacán, who specializes in the particular style of these festive gowns. It is a luxury item coveted by many young women, while the great demand seems to grow out of an urge to find a false sense of royalty in commodity fetishism. However, behind the glamour lies violence and corruption, turning the precious garment into an object of desire that can lead to dangerous power: On the one hand, it enables beauty queens to achieve great fame, while fame endangers these young women to fall into the claws of the "narco". A subtle connection to this complex topic is made by the various "jewels" on the right sleeve of the dress. What at first glance appears as rhinestones are pieces of broken glass that Teresa Margolles picked up in Culiacán in 2019 after a shootout during the arrest of Ovidio Guzmán López - son of the drug lord El Chapo and leader of a faction of the Sinaloa cartel. At the time, López was released after only a few hours by the authorities, as the cartel's supporters had sparked a wave of violence throughout the city. López's re-arrest on the 5th of January 2023 led to a new series of fierce attacks in the same city, in which more than 29 people have already died. Against this backdrop, "Blowback/The Power" bluntly demonstrates the urgent need to acknowledge the brutal reality of societies where individual lives are seen as expendable and the display of ill-gotten wealth is often glorified. Teresa Margolles is known for creating powerful artworks that demand attention to violence, poverty and alienation; for exposing the social and economic order that renders violent and destitute deaths an accepted normality; for her courage and integrity in transgressing social and artistic conventions; and for speaking truth to power through public exposure of government complicity in violence and poverty, not only in Mexico, but throughout the world.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/teresa-margolles>

PAUL MPAGI SEPUYA (b. 1982 in San Bernardino. Lives and works in Los Angeles.) is a Los Angeles-based artist working in photography whose projects weave together histories and possibilities of portraiture, queer and homoerotic networks of production and collaboration, and the material and conceptual potential of blackness at the heart of the medium. The "Daylight Studio / Dark Room Studio" series allows the artist to present his meditations on 19th-century portraiture and its impact on contemporary image-making. Drawing on these constant references from subject composition to antique objects, Sepuya's 2022 solo show at Deichtorhallen Hamburg's PHOXXI space is furthering these explorations. The works position subjects in the frame, including on-the-fly moments with friends and objects that occupy his space and reveal relational dynamics. Allowing his models—who consist of friends, lovers, and muses—to pose as they choose and react to the environment, Sepuya creates a new visual language. Paul Mpagi Sepuya's solo presentation at Deichtorhallen's PHOXXI building in Hamburg runs until February 26, 2023.

<https://www.peterkilchmann.com/artists/works-by-paul-mpagi-sepuya>

INSTAGRAM

@galeriepeterkilchmann

@Francis_alys_official

#andriudeplazes

@studioleikoikemura

@dago_rodriguez_carpinteros

@zilla_leutenegger

#teresamargolles

@pgami (Paul Mpagi Sepuya)

@maja_bajevic

@c_hefti_2017 (Christoph Hefti)

@studiomonicabonvicini

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS during ARCOmadrid 2023:

Dagoberto Rodriguez

On view Feb 17 – April 15, 2023

11-13 rue des Arquebusiers, 75003 Paris

Opening hours Paris:

Tues – Fri 11am – 7pm

Sat 11am – 7pm, and by appointment

Zilla Leutenegger "I Love You to the Moon and Back"

On view Jan 21 – March 18, 2023

Zahnradstrasse 21, 8005 Zurich

Opening hours Zahnradstrasse 21:

Tues – Fri 10am – 6pm

Sat 11am – 5pm

Marc-Antoine Fehr

On view Feb 4 – April 1, 2023

Rämistrasse 33, 8001 Zurich

Opening hours Rämistrasse 33:

Tues – Fri 10am – 6pm

Sat 11am – 5pm

PRESS CONTACT

For further information please contact: Fabio Pink, fabio@peterkilchmann.com

Tel: +41 44 278 10 10, Mob. +41 78 851 20 76