

Frieze Seoul 2023
Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich/Paris (booth #A15)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At this year's edition of Frieze Seoul we will present new works by a selection of emerging, as well as established artists from our gallery roster: **Francis Alÿs, Hernan Bas, Armin Boehm, Andy Denzler, Andriu Deplazes, Leiko Ikemura, Raffi Kalenderian, Tobias Kaspar, Zilla Leutenegger, Eva Nielsen and Uwe Wittwer.**

One of the highlights of our presentation is a new work by American artist **Hernan Bas** that belongs to his latest ongoing series "The Conceptualists" featuring portraits of fictional young male conceptual artists. The works capture intimate moments of different eccentric artists in their studios and devolve into absurdity. The protagonists are consumed by their passions as they vigorously and determinedly construct their self-made worlds. Bas says about the series: "what before might have been seen as "weirdos" is now, under the cover of "art". The works invoke art-historical references and reflect on the seemingly silliness of questionable contemporary art practices.

Works by Belgium artist **Francis Alÿs** will complement our presentation. These are intriguing small canvases and works on paper that reflect the artist's longstanding socio-political investigations and testify an unmistakable poetic sensitivity to political issues. Our booth will also include a bronze sculpture and a large painting by Swiss-Japanese artist **Leiko Ikemura**, who was recently ranked third place in the Contemporary Art Issue's "Top 20 Most Famous Female Painters Today". (Leiko Ikemura will be in Seoul on occasion of Frieze Seoul)

For his "Japan Collection" series Swiss artist **Tobias Kaspar** photographed embroideries from the archives of a Swiss textile manufacturer that he then blow up in large format prints. Since the 1960s these embroideries were produced exclusively for the Japanese market, which then opened up to western consumer goods. Kaspar demonstrates interest in cultural transfer of styles and fashion tracing global trajectories. (Tobias Kaspar will be in Seoul during Frieze.)

Francis Alÿs (b. 1959 in Belgium. Lives and works in Mexico City.) With humour, sensitivity and an acutely personal connection to his subject matter, Francis Alÿs examines the patterns of urban sites before weaving his own fables. He explores subjects such as modernism in Latin America and border zones in areas of political conflicts, asking about the relevance of poetic acts. In 2022, his acclaimed exhibition "The Nature of the Game" was on view in the Belgium Pavillon as part of the 59th Venice Biennale.

Hernan Bas (b. 1978 in Miami, Florida, where he lives and works) is best known for his narratively rich scenes that feature a wide-range of references spanning art and literature, popular culture, kitsch, the occult, religion, and mythology. Across his works, Bas seeks to defamiliarise everyday experience through humour, revealing the surreal and absurd lurking beneath the mundane.

Armin Boehm (b. 1972 in Aachen, Germany. Lives and works in Berlin). Group scene or still life, Boehm's works travel through a world where Max Beckmann's claustrophobic depth of field sets the scene for Otto Dix's unique brand of the grotesque, where urban bohemianism meets the shrill, homosexual, decadent and esoteric, where the cult of the body blends into hybrid, double-faced gender neutrality. The result is psychedelic in the most contemporary sense of the word: deeply emotional, and ultimately a revelation of the energy that pulses between people, objects, and their surroundings.

The subjects in **Andy Denzler's** (b. 1965, Zurich, where he lives and works) paintings are placed in introspective settings that mysteriously phase in and out of their present and past. His canvases reveal textured terrains and physical chasms in which physical layers of paint suggest skin upon skin. Denzler usually starts with the facial features of the protagonists that are often inspired by captions of vintage photographs from the mid-twentieth century. He places them in desolate narratives that combine the voyeuristic with a distant and solitary perspective. His works navigate Neo-expressionism mannerism with an understated sensibility for intimacy, nostalgia and desire. Andy Denzler is new in our gallery program. Our first exhibition with Denzler will take place on November 3, 2023.

Andriu Deplazes (b. 1993 in Zurich; lives and works in Marseille, France.) presents us colourful compositions of infinite depth and painterly maturity. The environmental crisis, the consumption of the landscape by agriculture—but also its diminishment through stereotyped narratives—the Romantic conception of the relationship between humans and nature, the notion of wilderness, humanity in nature, the nature of humanity and the nature of Nature: all of these feed into Deplazes' works that are pointed in their critique and yet dreamlike, before which we feel unease, but also empathy and familiarity with something we recognise as intrinsically human. While his landscapes draw us into the distance in terms of perspective, his works depicting indoors grant an ironic view of the intimate interior. The fluorescent hues and repeated axial symmetry play, as so often, with traditional styles, such as the parallelism and symbolism of a Ferdinand Hodler or

the rebellious aesthetic of a Pierre Bonnard. The figurative portraits, oriented towards sensation rather than physicality, are reminiscent of Maria Lassnig's concept of body awareness and explore questions around identity and belonging.

Leiko Ikemura (b. 1951 in Tsu City, Mie Prefecture, Japan. Lives and works in Berlin) is an internationally-renowned artist whose work spans the genres of drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and poetry. At the centre of her work is an exploration of nature, femininity and the cyclical rhythm of life and death. 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 in continuous transformation. Coloured surfaces and a sculptural language that oscillates between form and dissolution of form are typical elements of Ikemura's work, which combines Western European and East Asian cultures.

Raffi Kalenderian (b. 1981 in Los Angeles, US, where he lives and works). In Kalenderian's portraits, the individuals find themselves embedded in a vibrant, textured and colourfully patterned surrounding. A scenery unravels itself where the portrayed subject smoothly blends into the spatial structure given by its environment.

Tobias Kaspar (b. 1984 in Basel, Switzerland. Lives and works in Zurich and in Riga, Latvia.). His works demonstrate an interest in cultural transfer processes of styles and fashions within a sphere or beyond it, tracing global trajectories. The mechanisms of fashion, its dazzling power of seduction, of creating a desire to be someone else, and the possibilities it offers to embody or simulate identities are one of the key frames of reference for his practice. It often operates similar to fashion whose logic ranges between the market and an elusive irrationality.

Zilla Leutenegger (b. 1968 in Zurich, Switzerland, where she lives and works.). 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.

Eva Nielsen (b. 1982 in Les Lilas, France. Live and work in Paris.) combines her observation of climatic and geological phenomena with a technical gesture, that of exposure, particularly used in screen printing. The different materials and media used by the artist - photography, silk-screening, painting and printing - are superimposed and hybridised, resulting in a form of transfiguration. Like a topographer, Franco-Danish artist Eva Nielsen defines her work as a 'state of awareness' of the reality of a territory, its architecture and its environment.

Uwe Wittwer (b. 1954 in Zurich, where he lives and works.). Since the beginning of his career, Wittwer's works have been questioning the truth behind images and visual representation. His oeuvre encompasses paintings, water colours, charcoal drawings, works on paper and sculptural works on glass. Through his works, Wittwer takes the viewer to poetical, dreamlike and picturesque worlds of the unknown.

All images are:

Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich/Paris.

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