

# Anton Kern Gallery

## Bendix Harms

### Portraits: Why Me?

April 11 – May 18, 2024

April 9, 2024 -- The sixth exhibition by German artist Bendix Harms at Anton Kern Gallery presents twelve portrait paintings. The subjects range from Andy Warhol to Mike Tyson, from Mamon, the cat to a self-portrait with a blackbird. They are the result of the artist's constant interrogation of the world. *Why* is at the beginning of every painting, and every *why* is given an appropriate response.



Bendix Harms, *Warum Ich?*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 70 7/8 x 55 1/8 inches

#### *BENDIX HARMS PORTRAITS: WHY ME?*

##### The BIG WHY!

*Each painting starts with this question: WHY? A chosen subject works when it starts to send precise orders to my brain and to my right painterhand.... then the word WHY is vanishing into air within some seconds. This process depends on steel-like relationships -- the foundation of all Contentism.*

##### Why Warhol?

*Because he was able to become a human stamp while he was alive.*

##### Why DDR?

*Because it impresses me again and again how such a stuffy and brutal east-German dictatorship could exist for 28 years.*

##### Why Richard Diebenkorn?

*Because it was a big challenge to bring one of his fine-tuned colorfield-paintings to speak in a narrative way: Content meets Form*

##### Why Mamon?

*Because she impressed me with her one-term-language: MIAU!*

##### Why Mamon as a building?

*Because her body has architectural-qualities.*

##### Why John Lennon together with Mamon?

*Because Mamon, sent to me her 58th name during a morning-walk through the forest: Schoko Ono*

##### Why a blue tit?

*Because this bird with his steel-like backbone can bear a whole Nation.*

##### Why Mike Tyson?

*Because the mix of his visual qualities and his superior boxing skills is unique.*

##### Why Mamon and me?

*Because I want to understand how Paw Peace can feel in NY.*

##### Why a black bird and me?

*Because it's new for me to hatch three eggs together with Blackbird in a worldwide known bed.*

##### Why a shark?

*Because this animal is able to eat a whole world.*

##### Why me?

*Because it feels almost surreal to exist 57 years in peace.*

Bendix Harms was born in 1967 in Münster, Germany. He received his M.F.A in 1997 from the Hochschule für Bildende Kunst in Hamburg. He has been the subject of solo exhibitions in Europe, Los Angeles and New York, and was recently included in group exhibition at Le Consortium in Dijon, France, and the Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT. Harms' work is part of numerous public and private collections including Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt, Germany; Hall Art Foundation, Vermont and Germany; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA. Harms lives in Allerup, Denmark.