

Press Release
Galerie Peter Kilchmann
Untitled Booth U49

Andriu Deplazes Unveils Monumental New Work at Art Basel Unlimited

Art Basel Unlimited offers a rare platform for experiencing large-scale works that demand space, time, and full attention. This year, Swiss artist Andriu Deplazes presents his most ambitious project to date: *Körper umkreisen Feuer* (Bodies Circling Fire), an expansive canvas measuring 360 × 820 cm.

This powerful new painting continues Deplazes' exploration of myth, memory, and the psychological undercurrents of contemporary life. Set within a luminous alpine landscape, the scene depicts a group of figures encircling a fire beneath surreal mountain skies. The fire becomes a central symbol—suggesting ritual, resistance, renewal—evoking everything from ancient beacons and protest gatherings to ancestral ceremonies.

Subtle, shadowy silhouettes in the distance hint at movement and migration, introducing a layer of tension to the otherwise radiant composition. Deplazes leaves room for ambiguity, inviting viewers to interpret the scene through personal or collective lenses. This openness is key to the work's resonance, allowing it to operate on both intimate and mythic levels.

Körper umkreisen Feuer builds on Deplazes' recent investigations into landscape and storytelling, following works such as *Gipfelmännchen*, *Gipfelbuch* (2025) from his solo exhibition *Nasse Augen* at Galerie Peter Kilchmann, and *Alpenglühn* (2024) from *Apropos Hodler* at Kunsthau Zürich. These works reflect a deep engagement with the emotional and cultural charge of alpine settings, positioning the landscape as both backdrop and protagonist.

Andriu Deplazes is a Swiss painter whose work explores identity, nature, and the human condition through vivid, dreamlike scenes. His figures—often androgynous—inhabit landscapes that blend the surreal with the familiar, challenging perception and stirring emotional ambiguity. Drawing from art historical figures such as Giovanni Segantini, Ferdinand Hodler, and Pierre Bonnard, Deplazes reimagines these influences through a contemporary lens, fusing elements of realism, expressionism, and hallucinatory color.

Although *Körper umkreisen Feuer* remains in progress, its conceptual clarity is already evident. Like much of Deplazes' work, it straddles the line between the symbolic and the specific, the historical and the present. The result is a painting that feels timeless—rooted in both collective memory and current sensibilities.

Deplazes' work has been widely recognized for its exploration of the human form in dialogue with nature. His scenes, rich in emotional charge, often oscillate between the idyllic and the uncanny. As the artist himself describes it, his aim is to paint “inner images that cannot be seen in reality or captured with a camera”—visions that emerge from memory, dream, and imagination.

Selected Exhibitions

- Kunsthau Zürich, *Apropos Hodler* (2024)
- Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia (2023)
- Centre Pasquart, Biel (2023)
- Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (2020)
- Bündner Kunstmuseum, Chur (2019)
- Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Germany (2018)
- Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau (2018)

Awards and Fellowships

- Helvetia Art Prize (2017)
- Prix d'Art Manor (2019)
- Visarte Fellowship, Cité des Arts, Paris (2021)

Collections (Selection)

- Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau
- Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia
- Bündner Kunstmuseum, Chur
- Die Schweizerische Post, Bern
- Helvetia Art Collection, Basel
- Kunstsammlung Kanton Zürich
- Manor Art Collection, Geneva
- Musée d'art du Valais, Sion
- Musée de Pully
- Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen
- Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zurich