

Bendix Harms **SANKT RUFUS**

For Immediate Release

May 24 – June 30, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, May 24 from 6–8pm

In 2016, German painter Bendix Harms moved from Hamburg to Østerfæløden, a farm in the North of Denmark. This was the territory of Rufus, a cat who had been ruling over the property for the last 16 years, and with whom Harms formed an instantaneous and strong bond. For his fourth solo exhibition at the gallery, *SANKT RUFUS*, Harms has created a series of paintings as a monument to the late cat Rufus. In the artist's own words:

Rufus—the black cat of Østerfæløden, the Owner of Østerfæløden, the Leader and the Defender of this farm in the northern part of Denmark where he died on the 6th November 2017—physically. The heartbeat of the whole farm stopped too.

Rufus' relationship to this farm was and is enormous: he lived there for 18 years—human years—85 cat-years. He knew each culm of each field, each brick of each building, the creek and the edge of the forest and each hole of each mouse. The relationship to Rufus was and is atomic... he guided us. He lived on the farm a whole winter alone, sovereign and happy, only fed by a neighbor and himself. Each salutation with us into the sunny courtyard was a big fest: "Damned – where were you???" In the end, we bought this farm because of the cat: Rufus the decision-maker. "Beziehung haben" - having a Krupp-Steel-Relationship to someone or something. To me this is the main aspect necessary for creating art, especially when you are a German Contentist.

This black dot in the green fields was so magnetic that he must appear on the canvases as a black dot too. Huge, small, scratched or thick spackled with an ultra-thin and round palette-knife—Rufus is a storytelling prototype—he determines the big WHAT (to paint) and the big HOW (to paint). His orders get even more precise and my right arm becomes a machine.....spackle, spackle, spackle, spackle.....and suddenly – almost automatically—the KING OF CONCRETE appears onto the canvas: SANKT RUFUS!



Bendix Harms, *King of Concrete*, 2018, oil on canvas, 70.9 x 63 inches (180 x 160 cm).

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
10am – 6pm

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Bendix Harms was born in 1967 in Münster, Germany. He received his M.F.A in 1997 from the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg. He has been the subject of solo exhibitions in Europe, LA and New York. His paintings are included in numerous public and private collections including Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt, 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. *Bendix Harms: Chosen Ones*, a 368-page monograph of his work, was published by Karma in 2016.