

# ELLEN DE BRUIJNE PROJECTS

## CHEAPSKATE

Kubilay  
Mert Ural

### Opening

13 April 2019  
17 - 19h

### Exhibition

13 April -  
18 May 2019

Singel 372  
Amsterdam

Kubilay Mert Ural, *checkmate*,  
acrylic and epoxy on canvas,  
121 x 84 cm



Ellen de Bruijne Projects is proud to present the first solo show in the gallery with new and recent work by Kubilay Mert Ural: Cheapskate.

Kubilay Mert Ural's work opens a window into the desires, frustrations, and ultimately into our needs of the present times, now. On an infinite and open-ended loop, the work reminds us of the swing between chaos and order. It sometimes gives us an incomplete story, or a story that just occasionally pops up... Each one is a quest, an encounter, a playful invitation toward aspects of the uncomfortable, and a reminder of cheap melodies from imagined worlds.

Kubilay Mert Ural used to be a factory worker in a village in Turkey. He was working "the Turkish way," he said, meaning he had to do all different types of work, including heavy physical labour. In his free time, he painted, which is how he started, and he still feels like he is learning. Trying to escape this mind-numbing situation, one day he got a letter of invitation for a residency in Amsterdam. First the Sandberg Institute, and later on the Rijksakademie, both in Amsterdam.

The artist has a way of capturing otherworldly images. His videos, installations and paintings function like passages, inviting the viewer to traverse his/our primordial thoughts. The global reality as we know it today is one of confusion and chaos, indistinguishable from a bad dream. Dicey world leaders, post-colonial tensions, the endless abuse of power: these impressions are mixed with moments of absurdity — bondage of a world leader, a defecating ghost, inter-species copulation. In these visual narratives time and space collapse, past and future unfold on a single plane. Looming in the background is often the presence of an unidentified flying object, a hovering question about the eternal desire for mystery, belief systems, and possible answers for humanity. Ural is captivated by such fascinations, as well as consoled by these hypnagogic visions.

*(\*excerpts from a text by Jurriaan Benschop for KIT Düsseldorf)*

**Kubilay Mert Ural** (Turkey 1986) graduated from the Rijksakademie in 2018; he had solo shows at PILOT Galeri in Istanbul and group shows in KIT Düsseldorf both 2018 and Apotheek in 2019. He curated the oneminutes in 2018 and participated in Lost&Found, Studio Omstand and Hyena in the same year.

Kubilay Mert Ural, *no title*,  
acrylic on canvas, 87 x 91 cm



**Ellen de Bruijne PROJECTS**

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Gallery hours

Tu till Fri 11 – 18 h | Sat 13 – 18 h