

PRESS RELEASE

NOBERT BISKY UNREST

27 November 2020 – 13 March 2021

Fabienne Levy is pleased to announce Norbert Bisky first solo show in Lausanne. Norbert's exhibition sends a strong political message. It is an electroshock of colors and figures that embodies our history, past and present. It is also the representation of our choices. Its heroes are active, they fight for a better world, to find freedom. But what freedom?



By mixing the neon colors of the digital age and pieces of text halfway between the poster and the computer, his paintings touch us, challenge us. Norbert maintains a constant questioning. His work is in search of answers about our society and its differences.

Even in more settled times the work of German artist Norbert Bisky has centered around the instabilities of contemporary life. His first solo exhibition in Lausanne coincides with a period of extreme economic disruption and social upheaval that make the fragmented chaos characterizing his paintings appear almost prophetic.

On show for the first time will be a large-format mirror piece that place the onlooker directly in the image, blurring the line between the concrete gallery space and the space of meaning evoked by the image shreds placed on the reflecting surfaces. Using a new technique, Bisky dissects painted canvases, destroying what has been created only to rearrange the pieces, leaving blank spaces of mirrored plane.

In addition, a series of paintings and a work on paper all created in 2020, adopt motifs of erupting urbanity: the blueish-green tiles of Alexanderplatz station in Berlin adorned with ripped posters and scrawled graffiti. Symbols of resistance in a hostile environment, punctuated with ultra-modern architecture reminiscent of stranded spaceships. The human figures appear not so much lost as struggling, kicking or silently screaming, not yet ready to comply.

While working, police helicopters circled Bisky's studio, announcing the eviction of a squatted building soon to be substituted with a new shiny structure. The underlying theme of disparity provoking violent protest is also reflected in his latest paintings – some subjects appear to be throwing Molotov cocktails – giving them the decidedly political edge that the artist had retreated from over the last couple of years.

Having grown up in the former GDR, in a household devoted to communism, Bisky's relationship to revolutionary pathos is ambivalent. By over aestheticizing common references to anti-capitalist uprising he ultimately exposes them as meaningless and banal. Free floating symbols that can be used to advertise the latest fashion trend just as effectively as stirring up a riot.

Norbert Bisky (b.1973, Leipzig, Germany) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Norbert studied at the Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK), Germany, class of Georg Baselitz (1994-1999), as well as at the Salzburg Summer Academy, Austria, class of Jim Dine (1994-1995). He was then a Master student of Georg Baselitz, Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK), Germany (1999). He earned a Scholarship at Foundation Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Germany (2000).

Bisky has exhibited internationally, including at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, IL; Haifa Museum of Art, Haifa, IL; Galerie Templon, Paris, France; König Galerie, Berlin, Germany; König Galerie, London, UK; König Galerie, Tokyo, Japan; St. Matthäus-Kirche, Berlin, Germany; Villa Schöningen, Potsdam, Germany; Museum Langmatt, Baden, Switzerland; Bötzw Berlin, Germany; Kunsthalle Rostock, Rostock, Germany; Kunsthalle Memmingen, Memmingen, Germany; Kunsthalle Marcel Duchamp, Cully, Switzerland; Dortmunder Kunstverein, Germany; CAC, Center for Contemporary Art, Vilnius, Lithuania; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany; Centro Cultural Sao Lourenco, Portugal; Collaborations, Copenhagen, Denmark; Villa Arson, Nice, France; me Collectors Room, Berlin, Germany; Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland; Hall Art Foundation, Reading, USA; Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Frissiras Museum, Athens, Greece; among others.

His work is part of major public and private collections including: Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea; Kunsthalle Rostock, Germany; Frissiras Museum Athens, Greece; Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig, Germany; Museum Junge Kunst Frankfurt Oder, Germany; Burger Collection, Hong Kong; Ellipse Foundation, Portugal; Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Le FNAC Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, France; Hall Art Foundation, USA; Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, USA; G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig, Germany.

He was a teacher/professor at: HBK Braunschweig, Germany, 2016-2018; ACSA Autocenter Summer Academy, Berlin, Germany, 2015; Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts, 2013 – 2014; ECAL Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design, Geneva, Switzerland, 2008 – 2010. He was also invited as a guest lecturer at: The Royal Drawing School, London, UK; Goldsmiths, University of London, UK; The Offenbach University of Art and Design, Germany; Muthesius Kunsthochschule, Kiel, Germany; ECAL – École cantonale d'art de Lausanne, Switzerland.

Work on first page: Norbert Bisky, City Smell I, 2020, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm.

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