

Genius Loci III

Here they come

*Dora Celentano, Vivian Greven, Gesine Grundmann, Jennifer López Ayala, Vera Lossau,
Ruri Matsumoto, Linda Nadj, Nadja Nafe and Mariam Odishelidze*

4 July until 29 August 2015

Opening 3 July at 6 pm

For the third time in a row, the Setareh Gallery is placing a focus on the *Genius loci* of the art capital of Düsseldorf in the form of a group exhibition. As in the previous year, the Cologne-based curator **Gérard A. Goodrow** is responsible for the comprehensive exhibition.

The »spirit of a place« is determined by many different factors. But the vitality of a city dedicated to the arts is influenced more than anything else by the artists who are active there. A hotbed for emerging artistic talents is the both highly traditional and equally future-oriented Düsseldorf Academy of Art. With this exhibition, which bears the subtitle ***Here They Come***, the gallery draws attention to nine young artists, who have studied at the Academy in recent years or are about to receive their degrees. Their works are strongly influenced by the genius loci of the city and its academy, as well as by their respective professors – nevertheless, they each speak their own, highly individual artistic languages, which in turn will leave an indelible mark on the spirit of the city for years to come.

The subtitle refers in a tongue-in-cheek way to two b/w photos by Helmut Newton from 1981 in which four strong women – in the one photo dressed in fashionable street wear, in the other, although depicted in exactly the same pose, completely naked except for their high-heeled shoes – stride forward full of vigour and self-assurance. *Here They Come* – a new generation of strong artists, who open new ways of creative seeing and, with this, innovative ways of thinking. Their works break with traditions, without however throwing these overboard. They directly address various artistic traditions, movements, media and concepts from recent and past epochs – and yet remain without a doubt witnesses of the here and now.

As with the past two exhibitions in 2013 and 2014, the nine artists shown here represent completely different positions. The exhibition presents, for example, paintings and drawings on the interface between figuration and abstraction, between gesture and concept, by **Dora Celentano** (b. 1988 in Oberhausen), **Vivian Greven** (b. 1985 in Bonn), **Ruri Matsumoto** (b. 1981 in Tokyo), **Nadja Nafe** (b. 1984 in Tönisvorst) and **Mariam Odishelidze** (b. 1988 in Tbilisi).

Dora Celentano's curious pictorial worlds serve as projection surfaces for viewers' longings, whereas Mariam Odishelidze's figurative paintings address the emotional mentality of humans as universal beings, i.e. independent of religion, race or cultural background. Both Ruri Matsumoto and Nadja Nafe experiment with forms of abstraction, which are characterized by multiple layering and (semi-)transparency. Vivian Greven's highly precise figurative painting is especially sensuous – an almost anachronistic style of painting, which is based within tradition and time-honoured motifs, such as landscapes and nudes, as well as the theme of vanity.

With their highly individual visual concepts and working methods, **Gesine Grundmann** (b. 1974 in Cologne), **Jennifer López Ayala** (b. 1981 in Düsseldorf), **Vera Lossau** (b. 1976 in Haan) and **Linda Nadji** (b. 1972 in Teheran) create objects, photographs, collages and site-specific installations that address the interface between art and everyday life, between high and low.

The installations and photographs by Jennifer López Ayala make reference to painting: Strict geometric constellations using broken eggshells spread out across the floor are evidence of a highly differentiated analysis of the possibilities of painting in space. As with Vivian Greven, the artistic investigations of Vera Lossau frequently revolve around the theme of vanity, i.e. the fleeting, the futile, the vanishing, whereby her highly differentiated oeuvre can best be understood in the context of neo-conceptual art. Transitoriness also plays a central role in Linda Nadji's pictures and sculptures, which generally refer back to everyday objects and actions. And with Gesine Grundmann, everyday objects are transformed into artistic experiences of seeing by means of minor interventions. In all cases, it is ultimately up to the viewers themselves to give their own associations free rein.

This year as well, the **SETAREH FUTURE MASTERS ART AWARD** will be presented within the frameworks of this exhibition. The winner will receive a one-year grant from the Setareh Gallery as a »kickoff« so to speak. In addition to **Dr. Samandar Setareh** as co-owner of the Setareh Gallery and **Gérard A. Goodrow** as curator of this exhibition, the jury will consist of **Dr. Doris Krystof** (Curator of the Kunstsammlung NRW) and **Dr. Yilmaz Dziewior** (Director of the Museum Ludwig in Cologne).

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue (978-3-945498-04-0).

For further information, catalogue orders and high-res images, please contact the gallery at info@setareh-gallery.com