

## GENIUS LOCI 5: (RE)APPEARING IMAGES

Ulrike Kazmaier, Katharina Monka, Thomas Musehold, Róbert Olawuyi,  
Morgaine Schäfer, Ruben Benjamin Smulczynski

curated by Marion Eisele

Opening reception Thursday 29 June, 6:30 pm  
KÖNIGSALLEE 27  
30 June – 2 September 2017

In Düsseldorf, the *genius loci* – the spirit of a place – is closely linked with the prestigious art academy and the legacy of the countless artists who emerged from it and from the local art scene. In 2013, Setareh Gallery's first exhibition in this series looked at *Contemporary Masters* of the Düsseldorf Academy dating from 1945 onwards – to be followed, annually, with a focus on the younger generations of artists. Ever since, the exhibition has been showcasing artists who are either studying in Düsseldorf, have studied or still live there, and who significantly contribute to the image of Düsseldorf as a city of art.

The fifth episode of this exhibition series traces the consolidation of both past and present inherent in the notion of *genius loci* and in the field of art. For the term conjures up one thing above all: the spirits of the past that irrefutably beckon us and shape our awareness of a particular site.

With *Ulrike Kazmaier* (\*1989 in Crailsheim), *Katharina Monka* (\*1986 in Wunstorf), *Thomas Musehold* (\*1982 in Mönchengladbach), *Róbert Olawuyi* (\*1982 in Budapest), *Morgaine Schäfer* (\*1989 in Wolfsburg) and *Ruben Benjamin Smulczynski* (\*1990 in Tönisvorst), the exhibition showcases six Düsseldorf artists who skilfully make use of (art-)historical sources or the traditional canon of images, reflecting on both the perception and the effect of factual, remembered or imagined images. By combining, transposing and transforming motifs and images into other media and materials, the presented works subtly seek out their respective inherent characteristics. The effortless adoption of reproduction technologies and their influence on our culture is a red thread that runs through all the photographs, prints, sculptures, objects and videos shown in the exhibition.

Presented in the exhibition are sculptures by *Thomas Musehold*, for instance, that alternate between biological objects trouvés, amorphous artefacts and organic self-actualisation. In *Morgaine Schäfer's* photographs, portrait poses in the classic painterly style collide with the anachronism of the transparencies shown, whilst *Ruben Smulczynski's* digital retouching of art-historical paintings traces the materiality of fabric in their reproduction. The pixelated structure of *Ulrike Kazmaier's* sculptures, prints and wall objects are also directly based on art-historical models, yet only indirectly reveal their origin in their digital translation. In *Katharina Monka's* installation, we find a restaging in the vein of Caspar David Friedrich, whereas *Róbert Olawuyi's* video work comprises a concentrated and atmospheric projection of animated structures and found footage.

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Occasionally, the works unfold a subtle poetry that captures the fleetingness and the fluidity of the past and of the present. For our perception is shaped and our reality negotiated in the shimmering space between an all-pervasive virtuality, our personal imagination and our physical surroundings. In homage to this state of uncertainty and each in their own ways, all the six presented artists point to the simultaneity and artistic probing of both material and immaterial images.

The SETAREH FUTURE MASTERS ART AWARD will be awarded in the context of the exhibition on 31 August 2017. This year's jury comprises *Eva Birkenstock* (director of the Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen), *Dr Tayfun Belgin* (director of the Karl Ernst Osthaus Museum, Hagen), *Marion Eisele* as the exhibition curator and *Dr Samandar Setareh* (Setareh Gallery).

A catalogue (978-3-945498-08-8) will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.