

NICODIM

Katherina Olschbaur: Tortured Ecstasies

July 18 – August 22, 2020
Los Angeles: Nicodim Upstairs

Gravity is the central protagonist in Katherina Olschbaur's new body of paintings. Her subjects are in constant dialogue with it, falling, flying, levitating, lifting each other, and being lifted. Each figure has its own degree of pull, whether suspended in gradient fields of vibrant color, or anchored to a mother's knee post-crucifixion. If they were in outer space or in the water they'd be perfect and graceful, but Olschbaur's canvases place these bodies in a constant, glorious struggle between Newton's law and their own fallibility.

A lifecycle is encompassed within each form-in-motion; Olschbaur's linework is descriptive in its restraint, the minimal figures speak to the viewer, telling us where they came from, where they're going. Drawing inspiration from Judy Chicago's *PowerPlay* series, the bodies themselves are encapsulated and filled with an illuminated palette, becoming the utopian color atmospheres of which they are composed, rather than sapping their energy. With the religious resonance of William Blake's illustrations and the tormented expressiveness of Maria Lassnig, Olschbaur's forms possess not a light that never goes out, but rather the tumescent glow of a Sisyphusian struggle to keep their lifeforce burning every time it is nearly extinguished.

If God is light, then Olschbaur's figures are aroused by the struggle to bask in it, to reflect it. There is pleasure to be found in stumbling toward grace, a tortured ecstasy.

Katherina Olschbaur (b.1983, Bregenz, Lake Constance, Austria) lives and works in Los Angeles, California and Vienna, Austria. Recent exhibitions include *When You Waked Up the Buffalo*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2020); *Dirty Elements*, Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA (2020, solo); *Hollywood Babylon*, Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim, AUTRE Magazine, Los Angeles, CA (2020); *New Beginnings...*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2020); *Trans World*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA; Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania (2019); *The Divine Hermaphrodite*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2019, solo); *Horses*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2018, solo); *BioPerversity*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *Formal Encounters*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania (2018); *SEED*, curated by Yvonne Force Villareal, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA (2018); *A Painters Table*, organized with Bianca Regl, Blackbridge OFF Space, Beijing, China (2017); and *Haunted by Strokes*, Galerie Werkstatt Graz, Austria (2016, solo).

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*Portrait of a Young Poet
(Green), 2020*
oil on canvas
23 5/8 x 19 3/4 in.



White Gloves, 2020
oil on canvas
82 5/8 x 78 3/4 in.



*The Ladies in Jeffrey's
Bathtub (De Moiselles), 2020*
oil on canvas
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in.



Pieta, 2020
oil on canvas
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in.



*The Accidental Drop of G.
(One), 2020*
oil on canvas
82 5/8 x 78 3/4 in.



Mystical Self Portrait, 2020
oil on canvas
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in.



CONTACT, 2020
oil on canvas
23 5/8 x 19 3/4 in.



Sub Blue, 2020
oil on canvas
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in.



Grapes, 2020
oil on canvas
23 5/8 x 19 3/4 in.

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Katherina Olschbaur

° Born 1983, Bregenz, Lake Constance, Austria
Lives and works in Vienna, Austria and Los Angeles, CA

Education

2001-2009 University of Applied Arts Vienna (Painting, Animation Film, Stage Design), Austria
2006-2007 4 month travel and research project on Bruno Schulz in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Israel
2005 Erasmus Scholarship Wimbledon School of Art, London, United Kingdom

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2020 *Tortured Ecstasies*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Dirty Elements, Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA
2019 *The Divine Hermaphrodite*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany
2018 *Horses*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Deep Cuts, PØST, Los Angeles, CA
WILDE REITER, OOF Books, Los Angeles, CA
2017 *Liquid Promises* (curated by Mia Laska), Bendix Building, Los Angeles, CA
2016 *Haunted by Strokes*, Galerie Werkstatt Graz, Austria
Featured Artist at Art Bodensee Fair, Dornbirn, Austria
Von Tangenten und Passanten (with Luisa Kasalicky), LLLLLL Space, Vienna, Austria
2015 *The Opening*, Brick 5 Theater, Vienna, Austria
Parallel Vienna, Alte Post, Vienna, Austria
PONG (with Olivia Kaiser), Kunstraum am Schauplatz, Vienna, Austria
2013 *Über Malerei*, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria
Dickicht (with Matthias Buch), Vienna Art Foundation – Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna, Austria
2011 *Wicked Walls*, MUSA - Museum on Demand, Vienna, Austria
Schatten und Wirbel, Museum Spoerri, Hadersdorf am Kamp, Austria
Into deeper lands – at open sea, Magazin Vienna, Austria
2008 *Unsichere Räume*, Kunstraum Praterstraße 15, Vienna, Austria
2007 *Yussuf/Cermak* (with Lorenz Helfer), Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria

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Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *When You Waked Up the Buffalo*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
We Used to Gather, Library Street Project, Detroit, MI
What's Up Twenty Twenty, Lawrence Van Hagen, London, United Kingdom
Hollywood Babylon, Nicodim Gallery, AUTRE Magazine, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA
New Beginnings, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *LA on Fire*, Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Todas Mis Damas, Mexico City, Mexico
Trans World, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania
Trans World, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Our Lady of the Flowers, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania
- 2018 *SEED*, curated by Yvonne Force Villareal, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY
BioPerversity, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Formal Encounters, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania
Soft Bodies, Werkartz, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *Moi non Moi – Carrying Owls to Athens*, Wiener Artfoundation, 77B Kallirrois, Athens, Greece
Pictures of Nothing, PG Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
A Painters Table, Blackbridge OFF Space, Beijing, China
M, Galerie Z, Hard, Austria
Avenue, curated by Amer Abbas and Stefan Bidner, Athens, Greece
Parallel at Art Vienna Fair, Museum Leopold, Vienna, Austria
Academy Art Auction, Dorotheum, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 *Summer in the City*, Galerie Christine König, Vienna, Austria
Presentation with Christine König Gallery at Artissima, Turino, Italy
Presentation with Christine König Gallery at Vienna Contemporary, Austria
Paper doesn't blush, Αισχύλου 31, Ψυππή, curated by Stefan Bidner, Athens, Greece
Parallel United, Artfoundation, Vienna, Austria
Young Art Auction, 21er Haus Vienna, Austria
- 2015 *Mujeras Alcanzando la Luz*, Casa Museo del Banco National, Panama City, Panama
Buchstabenfest, Zollamt Bad Radkersburg, Austria
The Katharsis Show, Vienna Art Foundation, Vienna, Austria
Colour Value, Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna, Austria
- 2014 *Anton Faistauer Prize for Painting*, Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg, Austria
Die große Illusion, Atelier Steinbrener/ Dempf, Vienna, Austria
Parallelwelten, Galerie Gerersdorfer, Vienna, Austria
Hier und Jetzt, Habsburgerwohnung, curated by Renate Quehenberger, Vienna, Austria
- 2013 *Triangel*, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz, Austria
If sport is the brother of labour, then art is the cousin of unemployment, Camp Art Space, Athens, Greece

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- Wie weit willst Du gehen? Pinacoteca*, curated by Ursula Maria Probst, Vienna, Austria
Dada Restaurant, Art Athina, Independent Platform, Athens, Greece
Picture Show, Alabama Sir Raum, Leipzig, Germany
21 Posters by 21 Artists, Magazin Vienna, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 *Magic Bus*, curated by Tobias Pils, Museum Gironcoli, Austria
Abstraktion und Subtraktion, Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna, Austria
Predicting Memories, Vienna Art Week, K.K. Telegraphenamts, Vienna, Austria
Up and Down and Up, VBKÖ Vienna, Austria
Paliano, Palais Liechtenstein, Feldkirch, Austria
- 2011 *Symbiosis - XI Biennale de la Méditerranée*, Thessaloniki, Greece
From erewhon to who knows when..., curated by Christian Egger, Kunstverein Schattendorf, Austria
Before the movies the paintings were like the movies, moe, Vienna, Austria
On Steep Waves (organized with Arie Amaya Akkermans) ReMap 3, Athens, Greece; Fluc, Vienna Art Week, Vienna, Austria
- 2010 *Sweet Anticipation*, curated by Övül Durmusoglu, Salzburger Kunstverein, Austria
Georg Eisler Preis – nominated artists, BA-Kunstforum, Vienna, Austria
Nachbilder (with Olivia Kaiser, Stefan Wirnsperger), Galerie Elisabeth Michitsch, Vienna, Austria
Und immer fehlt mir etwas und das quält mich, Kunstgruppe Köln, Germany
Neue malerische Positionen, Galerie Lukas Feichtner, Vienna, Austria
MAL X, Kunstraum Goethestraße, Linz, Austria
Unsichere Räume, Kunstraum flat 1, Vienna, Austria
- 2009 *Reden ist Silber Zeigen ist Gold*, Atelierhof Kreuzberg Berlin, Germany
Games, Kunsthalle Karlsplatz, Vienna
- 2006 *Real*, Kunsthalle Krems, Austria
Bon Appetit, Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria

Selected Press & Publications

- 2020 “Power and Eroticism in Katherina Olschbaur’s Paintings,” *BerlinArtLink*, May 15
“Exploring Adoration, Worship, Heightened Awareness and Erotic Sensuality through the
“Phantom Body: Weightless Bodies, Avatars, and the end of Skin,” *WHITEHOT*, April 28
Body-Inhabited Objects of Desire with Katherina Olschbaur,” *ArtMazeMag*, April 16
“Katherina Olschbaur Subverts the Patriarchy with Sensual Delight,” *LAWeekly*, February 4
- 2019 “Katherina Olschbaur,” *PARNASS Kunstmagazin*, August 8, p. 10
- 2018 “Kat Olschbaur’s Solo Show ‘Wilde Reiter’ @ OOF Books,” *Autre.love*, April 19
- 2017 “Young artists about Vienna: ‘Quiet as a village,’” *derStandard.at*
- 2016 “Aufbruch in Ausgeglichenheit,” *Die Zeit: Kunst und Auktionen* 11, 2016
- 2015 *On Broncia Koller*, in: *The history of painting Revisited*, Project by Katrin Plavcak
- 2014 *Wenn das Öl noch nass ist*, article by Nicole Scheyerer, in *Falter* No 46/14
Einblicke, Contemporary Art from the Illwerke collection, edited by Christa Häusler, Bucher Verlag

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- Über Malerei*, Vienna: Akademie der bildenden Künste
Faistauer Preis 2014 für Malerei, Traklhaus Salzburg, catalogue
Portrait Szene Wien, feature by Ursula Maria Probst, in Art Austria Magazine 2014
- 2012 *Zwischenwelt Zeitschrift für Exilliteratur*, Cover, edited by Theodor Krame, Gesellschaft für Exilliteratur, Vienna
Hotel Series Postcard Edition, with Martin Schnur, published by Helmut Marko
Schaufenster Portrait: Katherina Olschbaur, in die Presse 11/12
- 2011 *Basis Edition: Katherina Olschbaur*, on the occasion of the exhibition *Wicked Walls* at MUSA Wien, with texts by Oona Lochner and Brigitte Felderer
Daniel Spoerri zu Katherina Olschbaur, text by Daniel Spoerri, on the occasion of the exhibition *Schatten und Wirbel*, Museum Spoerri
Into deeper lands at open Sea, text by Marie Duhnkrack, on the occasion of the exhibition *Into deeper lands at open sea*, Magazin Vienna
Vor Thessaloniki, Bcjem - Biennale of Young Artists of the Mediterranean Sea, edited by Mona Hahn, published by Bmukk
- 2010 *Auf einmal tut sich eine Welt auf*, text by Elisabeth Krimbacher, in *Parnass No 4/11*
- 2007 *Ich ist ein anderer*, text and speech by Monika Helfer, on the occasion of the exhibition *Yussuf/Cermak* Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria
- 2006 *Contexxt Magazin*, Cover
Ö1 Talentebörse, Interview with Matthias Osiecki
Real, Kunsthalle Krems exhibition catalogue

Grants/Awards

- 2018 Painting Prize, Internationale Bodenseekonferenz, Switzerland
2016 Nomination Kapsch Contemporary Art Award, Mumok Vienna, Austria
2012 Appreciation prize for art and culture, County of Vorarlberg, Austria
2009 Theodor Körner Prize
Scholarship of the Anni und Heinrich Sussmann Foundation
2003 Tricky Women Honouring Award

Residencies

- 2017 Studio Residency, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
Annexes Bourglingster Studio Residency, Luxemburg
2015 CCA - Andratx Studio Residency, Spain
2013 Hospiz Hotel Residency Arlberg, Austria

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- 2011 Start-Award of the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Bmukk, Austria
2-months working residency as guest of Panos Papadopoulos, Athens, Greece
2009 Paliano - Rome, Artist in Residency, Italy

Selected Public and Private Collections

Collection Angerlehner, Austria
Belvedere Museum, Vienna, Austria
CC Foundation, Shanghai
City of Vienna, Austria
County of Vorarlberg, Austria
Illwerke Collection, Austria
Oskar Kokoschka Centre, University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria