

NICODIM

KATHERINA OLSCHBAUR

PRAYERS, DIVINATIONS

Nicodim New York

September 7 - October 22, 2022



Katherina Olschbaur, *Prayers, Divinations*, 2022

In *Prayers, Divinations*, Katherina Olschbaur's fourth solo exhibition with Nicodim, the Austrian-born Los Angeles-based artist combines small portraits with large-scale paintings in her signature surrealist oeuvre, blending figuration and abstraction with sweeping gestural marks. Her drawings, though never included in an exhibition, are integral to Olschbaur's practice, and form the backdrop of her fascination with Renaissance and Baroque-style paintings where themes of religious authority often take center stage. Leaning towards the freedom found in rebellion, she recenters our gaze giving grace and reverence to her figures. Colorful sketches

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in luscious oils. Abstract bodies leap off canvases and traverse into dark shadows in a series of electrifying hues. An ensemble of worlds collides where figures blend and reemerge in faraway landscapes only to be unearthed in the recesses of vivid imaginings. The narratives of each work are open ended suggesting layers of memory, lapses in time, and fleeting moments recaptured.

There is a tenderness in Olschbaur's portraiture, an earnestness in her striking use of color. Prayers are asked, answered, and faith is questioned and tested again and again. A sense of tranquility blends with the contrasting vibrancy of her palette. Warm yellows, golds, and soft greens create peaceful scenes that lend themselves to the unconventional beauty of the surreal. Piercing magentas sit comfortably next to cool blues and a dizzying visual effect takes hold. In her approach to oil painting, like the medium itself, Olschbaur slows down, savoring the passage of time over hours, days, and weeks. She reexamines works to uncover hidden mysteries and an underlying moodiness with each new revision. Methodically accessing memories layer by layer, she relishes in her imagination.

Lay down, beloved (2022), depicts three figures in the foreground and two smaller bodies lying close together farther afield. It's a mythical scene where the emotionality of rich colors hurdles off the canvas and jumps out toward the viewer. The woman in the foreground is flanked by two male sisters who discover her sleeping body under the shadow of a tree. Is she dying, or has she already transitioned? Since her grandmother passed on the last day of her 2021 residency at Black Rock in Dakar, Senegal, Olschbaur has been captivated by notions of death and the transition of life. Portraiture, place, and the ever-present gaze are explored throughout *Prayers, Divinations*. Deeply rooted in her personal experiences over the last two years the works presented are at once intimate and formal, questioning notions of selfhood and the responsibility of the artist when depicting someone else. For Olschbaur, portraiture is the ultimate prayer and in this exhibition, with which she begs a most pressing question: How can I capture the spirit of another person?

— Folasade Ologundudu

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Katherina Olschbaur (b.1983, Bregenz, Lake Constance, Austria) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She graduated from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria. Recent exhibitions include *Dak'Art: African Contemporary Art Biennale*, Dakar (2022); *Live Flesh*, Nicodim Los Angeles, (2021–2022, solo); *Dominique Fung and Katherina Olschbaur: My Kingdom and a Horse*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2021, two-artist); *Night Blessings*, Union Pacific, London (2021, solo), *Tortured Ecstasies*, Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles (2020, solo); *Dirty Elements*, Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine (2020, solo); *Hollywood Babylon: A Re-inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*, Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim, AUTRE Magazine, Los Angeles (2020); *The Divine Hermaphrodite*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin (2019, solo); and *Horses*, Nicodim Los Angeles (2018, solo). In 2021, she was selected for the second year of Kehinde Wiley's Black Rock residency in Dakar, Senegal.

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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

2022 *Prayers, Divinations*, Nicodim, New York (upcoming)
Dak'Art: African Contemporary Art Biennale, Dakar

2021 *Live Flesh*, Nicodim, Los Angeles
Dominique Fung and Katherina Olschbaur: My Kingdom and a Horse, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
Night Blessings, Union Pacific, London

2020 *Tortured Ecstasies*, Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles
Dirty Elements, Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine

2019 *The Divine Hermaphrodite*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin

2018 *Horses*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
Deep Cuts, PØST, Los Angeles
WILDE REITER, OOF Books, Los Angeles

2017 *Liquid Promises* (curated by Mia Laska), Bendix Building, Los Angeles

2016 *Haunted by Strokes*, Galerie Werkstatt Graz, Graz
Featured Artist at Art Bodensee Fair, Dornbirn
Von Tangenten und Passanten (with Luisa Kasalicky), LLLLLL Space, Vienna

2015 *The Opening*, Brick 5 Theater, Vienna
Parallel Vienna, Alte Post, Vienna
PONG (with Olivia Kaiser), Kunstraum am Schuplatz, Vienna

2013 *Über Malerei*, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vienna
Dickicht (with Matthias Buch), Vienna Art Foundation – Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna

2011 *Wicked Walls*, MUSA - Museum on Demand, Vienna
Schatten und Wirbel, Museum Spoerri, Hadersdorf am Kamp
Into deeper lands – at open sea, Magazin, Vienna

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NICODIM

- 2008 *Unsichere Räume*, Kunstraum Praterstraße 15, Vienna
2007 *Yussuf/Cermak* (with Lorenz Helfer), Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *A Woman's Right to Pleasure*, Sotheby's, Los Angeles
Dakar Biennale (Dak'Art), Dakar
- 2021 *My Secret Garden*, Asia Art Center, Taipei
Density Betrays Us, The Hole, New York
Women in Paris, Eric Hussenot, Paris
Friend Zone, Half Gallery, New York
- 2020 *PAPA RAGAZZE!*, Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles
Quixotic, Ramp Gallery, London
When You Waked Up the Buffalo, Nicodim, Los Angeles
A Peripheral Reverie, Penske Projects, Montecito
We Used to Gather, Library Street Project, Detroit
What's Up Twenty Twenty, Lawrence Van Hagen, London
Hollywood Babylon, Nicodim Los Angeles, AUTRE Magazine, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles
New Beginnings, Nicodim, (online)
- 2019 *LA on Fire*, Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles
Todas Mis Damas, Mexico City
Trans World, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
Trans World, Nicodim, Los Angeles
Our Lady of the Flowers, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
- 2018 *SEED*, curated by Yvonne Force Villareal, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York
BioPerversity, Nicodim, Los Angeles
Formal Encounters, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
Soft Bodies, Werkartz, Los Angeles
- 2017 *Moi non Moi – Carrying Owls to Athens*, Wiener Artfoundation, 77B Kallirrois, Athens
Pictures of Nothing, PG Art Gallery, Istanbul
A Painters Table, Blackbridge OFF Space, Beijing
M, Galerie Z, Hard
Avenue, curated by Amer Abbas and Stefan Bidner, Athens
Parallel at Art Vienna Fair, Museum Leopold, Vienna
Academy Art Auction, Dorotheum, Vienna
- 2016 *Summer in the City*, Galerie Christine König, Vienna
Presentation with Christine König Gallery at Artissima, Turino
Presentation with Christine König Gallery at Vienna Contemporary, Vienna
Paper doesn't blush, Αισχύλου 31, Ψυρρή, curated by Stefan Bidner, Athens
Parallel United, Artfoundation, Vienna

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- Young Art Auction*, 21er Haus, Vienna
- 2015 *Mujeras Alcanzando la Luz*, Casa Museo del Banco National, Panama City
Buchstabenfest, Zollamt, Bad Radkersburg
The Katharsis Show, Vienna Art Foundation, Vienna
Colour Value, Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna
- 2014 *Anton Faistauer Prize for Painting*, Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg
Die große Illusion, Atelier Steinbrener/ Dempf, Vienna
Parallelwelten, Galerie Gerersdorfer, Vienna
Hier und Jetzt, Habsburgerwohnung, curated by Renate Quehenberger, Vienna
- 2013 *Triangel*, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz
If sport is the brother of labour, then art is the cousin of unemployment, Camp Art Space, Athens
Wie weit willst Du gehen? Pinacoteca, curated by Ursula Maria Probst, Vienna
Dada Restaurant, Art Athina, Independent Platform, Athens
Picture Show, Alabama Sir Raum, Leipzig
21 Posters by 21 Artists, Magazin Vienna, Vienna
- 2012 *Magic Bus*, curated by Tobias Pils, Museum Gironcoli, Vienna
Abstraktion und Subtraktion, Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna
Predicting Memories, Vienna Art Week, K.K. Telegraphenamt, Vienna
Up and Down and Up, VBKÖ, Vienna
Paliano, Palais Liechtenstein, Feldkirch
- 2011 *Symbiosis - XI Biennale de la Méditerranée*, Thessaloniki
From erewhon to who knows when..., curated by Christian Egger, Kunstverein Schattendorf
Before the movies the paintings were like the movies, moe, Vienna
On Steep Waves (organized with Arie Amaya Akkermans) ReMap 3, Athens; Fluc, Vienna Art Week, Vienna
- 2010 *Sweet Anticipation*, curated by Övül Durmusoglu, Salzburger Kunstverein
Georg Eisler Preis – nominated artists, BA-Kunstforum, Vienna
Nachbilder (with Olivia Kaiser, Stefan Wirnsperger), Galerie Elisabeth Michitsch, Vienna
Und immer fehlt mir etwas und das quält mich, Kunstgruppe Köln
Neue malerische Positionen, Galerie Lukas Feichtner, Vienna
MAL X, Kunstraum Goethestraße, Linz
Unsichere Räume, Kunstraum flat 1, Vienna
- 2009 *Reden ist Silber Zeigen ist Gold*, Atelierhof Kreuzberg, Berlin
Games, Kunsthalle Karlsplatz, Vienna
- 2006 *Real*, Kunsthalle Krems
Bon Appetit, Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz

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 Body-Inhabited Objects of Desire with Katherina Olschbaur,” *ArtMazeMag*, April 16

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- “Phantom Body: Weightless Bodies, Avatars, and the end of Skin,” *WHITEHOT*, April 28
“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
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
- 2012 Appreciation prize for art and culture, County of Vorarlberg
- 2009 Theodor Körner Prize
Scholarship of the Anni und Heinrich Sussmann Foundation
- 2003 Tricky Women Honouring Award

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Residencies

- 2021 Black Rock Senegal, Dakar
- 2017 Studio Residency, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing
Annexes Bourglingster Studio Residency, Luxemburg
- 2015 CCA - Andratx Studio Residency, Spain
- 2013 Hospiz Hotel Residency Arlberg, Austria
- 2011 Start-Award of the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Bmukk, Austria
2-months working residency as guest of Panos Papadopoulos, Athens
- 2009 Paliano - Rome, Artist in Residency, Italy

Selected Public and Private Collections

Angerlehner Museum, Thanlheim bei Wels
Belvedere Museum, Vienna
Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Miami
City of Vienna
County of Vorarlberg
ICA Miami
Illwerke Collection, Vorarlberg
Longlati Foundation, Hong Kong
Oskar Kokoschka Centre, University of Applied Arts, Vienna
Pond Society, Shanghai
Yageo Foundation, Taiwan
Yuz Museum, Shanghai