

ROBERT MUNTEAN

FUTURE DAYS



Robert Muntean, 'Hallo Excentrico', 2024, 170x130 cm.

'Future Days'

23 February 2024 - 29 March 2024

Opening reception: Thursday 22 February 2024

6.30-8.30pm

gallery rosenfeld is very proud to present the Austrian artist Robert Muntean's third solo in the gallery .

Entitled 'Future Days', it is, like his previous exhibitions, very influenced by music. Whereas his previous influences were very dense musical groups like 'The Swans, this time the reference point is the German group Can's album 'Future Days'. In Muntean's words, "the record starts with the title track 'Future Days' and the space is open and there is nothing to hold onto in sight. This open space with nothing to hold onto describes my latest works pretty well.

It also describes the feeling of the works - we are uncertain about what the future brings we try to hang on to each other to protect ourselves, protect our hopes. I like to offer some positive excitement, I'm very hopeful and the feelings my works offers is hopeful. There's melancholy but it's more about reassuring ourselves and about understanding what we have and who we are. There is also an intimacy about the works as they are very private." (Muntean)

These new paintings by the artist have a great tenderness. The emptying of the space enables us to fully concentrate on the beauty of Muntean's figures. He has always been a great colourist in the time honoured Austrian tradition but removing the density of his traditional web of brush strokes allows the colour to achieve greater luminosity.

Muntean thinks deeply about his art. In his previous paintings he was looking for a way to paint sound and distortion. Now, beginning with working with water colour, it led him to discover a new openness in his painting style. He wanted to make his paintings brighter. He refers to using alkyd white which enabled him to use thin layers of white to give the paintings almost the feel of water colours. Muntean has continually searched for new ways to paint. Earlier in his career, his works became more and more abstract before eventually returning to the figure as absolute protagonist. However, this time the figure has great lightness and clarity.



Robert Muntean, 'Lovers', 2023, 60x50 cm



Robert Muntean, 'The Bed', 2023, 60x50 cm

The artist describes his new works very eloquently:

"These new works are more meditative. The figures are not painted in a classical way, they emerge out of abstract forms, free formations and spontaneous settings of paint, as if they have absorbed all their surroundings and have created themselves out of it. At the same time, there is a feeling of fragility about the figures, they only exist because of their surroundings and you have the feeling sometimes as if parts of them were transparent.

The paintings are not intended to be portraits of specific individuals. It is more about the inner state of the figures. In that sense, the works are meant to be portraits of a feeling or an inner state to which we can all connect. The use of popcultural images should only help us to focus on this feeling rather than being distracted by personal images and personal content." (Muntean)

There is a great confidence in these new paintings of Muntean's and a great poetic sentiment and we are immensely proud to be showing them for the first time.

Robert Muntean was born 1982 in Leoben, Austria. He currently lives and works in Berlin.

Muntean studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig. He has had numerous solo presentations in galleries and institutions across Europe, US, China and Korea. His works are featured in prominent collections such as the Leopold Museum, the Siemens Collection and the Collection of the Federal Ministry for Education, Collection of the City in Vienna amongst others. His work has been recently exhibited at Museum Angerlehner, Wels, Leopold Museum, Vienna, the Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg, Kunstverein Steyr, Steiermark, Pop/off/art Gallery, Moscow and Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam. Muntean has also participated in Artist in Residence, SoArt and Artist Residency, Charim Factory in 2023 and 2022 respectively.