

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE



Gideon Rubin, *Red Top*, 2022, oil on linen, 71 x 66 cm / 28 x 26 in

GIDEON RUBIN

Looking Away

September 2 – November 12, 2022

Opening on Friday, September 2, 2022, 5 – 7:30 pm

a DC OPEN Galleries event, September 2 – 4, 2022

The artist will be present.

To open the 2022 autumn season, Galerie Karsten Greve is delighted to launch *Looking Away*, a solo exhibition featuring new work by Gideon Rubin. This is Gideon's eighth one-man show with Galerie Karsten Greve, which has represented and presented the artist for more than the past ten years. Twenty-five works in oil on natural linen will be on display, coming directly from Gideon's London studio, and giving an insight into the artist's current creative phase.

There is a focus on two series of paintings with a total of ten works, each showing the same motif: the back view of a young woman in a purple dress (*Purple Dress*, 2022), and of a young man in a blue shirt (*Blue Shirt*, 2022). The isolated figures face away from the viewer, and are shown in undefined places. It is the romantic *Rückenfigur*, or figure seen from behind, that seems to be revived in Gideon Rubin's new work. The *Rückenfigur* with his or her typical gaze into an indefinite distance serves to convey the depth of space on the two-dimensional picture surface so as to allow the viewer to identify with the figure looking into the picture space. *Looking Away*, the title of the exhibition, describes situations in which people ostentatiously look the other way. Showing protagonists from the back is ambiguous: on the one hand, it illustrates strong emotions such as contempt, sadness, fear, disgust, and thoughtfulness. On the other hand, in early photography as well as in fashion photography, a figure, or nude, seen from the back is an artistic exploration of the dialectic of revealing and hiding. The two series, *Purple Dress* and *Blue Shirt*, evoke both photography's ability to reproduce and the process of remembering. Looked at from a distance, the images of the two series appear similar, however, their differences become clear when viewed up close. This process corresponds to an imitation of memory, which is slightly altered each time one returns to an item in one's memory. In his most recent work, Gideon more frequently works in series; he repeats the same motif over and over again, creating the same image at different scales as if it were a photograph in different formats. Gideon Rubin describes this procedure as "exercises in seeing."

His paintings are inspired by photographs from old family albums found at flea markets, in daily newspapers, or illustrated magazines. The complexity of historical hairstyle trends, pictures of celebrities,

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pornography as well as portrait and history painting become visual subjects moved to the center of artistic interest. Gideon sketches his subjects with a few brushstrokes which he applies with confidence and using tonal colors – mostly sandy hues; to emphasize details he also uses a clear bright red. As a result of the blurring of identifying details and the erasure of physiognomic features, onlookers associate the protagonists in the picture with their own memories and perceptions, especially since the restrained gestures, postures, and positions of the characters aim at a déjà-vu effect, encouraging those who see them to complete the picture in their own way.

Gideon Rubin was born in Tel Aviv in 1973. He studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York, USA, and at the Slade School of Fine Art in London, UK, where he completed his studies in 2002, graduating with a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree. In 2013, he was a scholarship student in the Outset residency program in Tel Aviv; in 2014, he received the Shifting Foundation grant. In 2016, Gideon Rubin took part in an exchange program for artists from China and Israel sponsored by Galerie Karsten Greve and Outset, resulting in the "Places of Conflict" project. On a regular basis, Gideon Rubin's works have been shown in international solo and group exhibitions, and feature in many renowned private and public collections worldwide, including Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar (NL), the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Herzliya (Israel), the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, the Rubin Museum, Tel Aviv, the Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, the Collezione Fondazione San Patrignano, Rimini, the Maison Ruinart in Reims, and the Fondation Francès, Senlis. The artist lives and works in London, UK.

The exhibition is accompanied by three publications on Gideon Rubin published by Galerie Karsten Greve:

Gideon Rubin. A Stranger's Hand, with text by Sacha Craddock, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris 2020 (French / English / German), ISBN: 978-3-940824-76-9, 40 euros.

Gideon Rubin. Questions of Forgiveness, with texts by Judicaël Lavrador, Gideon Rubin, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris 2016 (French / English), 10 euros.

Gideon Rubin. Others, with text by Gabriel Coxhead, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris 2010 (French / English), ISBN: 978-3-940824-44-8, 40 euros.

ABOUT GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE

Karsten Greve has been a successful art dealer for fifty-three years. He opened his first gallery in 1973 with a solo exhibition of Yves Klein and Cy Twombly in Cologne. He then opened additional premises, one in Paris (Rue Debelleye) in 1989 and one in St. Moritz (Via Maistra) in 1999. Galerie Karsten Greve ranked from the beginning as a leading gallery worldwide and is regularly represented at international art fairs such as the ART BASEL shows, FIAC and TEFAF. The gallery organizes important individual exhibitions of renowned international artists such as Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Joseph Cornell, Willem De Kooning, and WOLS. Its program is determined by the owner's personal contact to artists of the international post-1945 avant-garde, such as Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Jannis Kounellis, John Chamberlain, and Pierre Soulages. Karsten Greve's long-standing collaboration with artists such as Gotthard Graubner, Pierrette Bloch and Leiko Ikemura has contributed significantly to them achieving worldwide recognition. The gallery, which is representing about thirty artists, is constantly expanding its portfolio to include rising artists like Georgia Russell, Claire Morgan, Gideon Rubin, and Raúl Illarramendi. Galerie Karsten Greve is equally well known for its solo exhibitions and its highly ambitious accompanying catalogue productions published by the gallery.

MEDIA CONTACT

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We are happy to provide you with images of the works shown in the exhibition.