

Westfälischer Kunstverein

Press Release

CAMILLE HENROT “The Pale Fox”

21 February - 10 May 2015



Camille Henrot “The Pale Fox”, 2014-15 | Exhibition view, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster
© ADAGP Camille Henrot | Photo: Thorsten Arendt | Courtesy kamel mennour, Paris and Johann König, Berlin

Location: Westfälischer Kunstverein, Rothenburg 30, 48143 Münster, Germany

Exhibition: 21 February - 10 May 2015

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 11 am - 7 pm

Admission: 4,- / 2,- reduced / members free

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Westfälischer Kunstverein is pleased to announce the first large-scale solo exhibition in Germany by French artist Camille Henrot (b. 1978). The internationally reviewed solo exhibition “The Pale Fox” is a coproduction of four European institutions and will travel to Münster via London, Copenhagen and Paris.

“The Pale Fox” is dedicated to our endeavour to make sense of our world and our existence through objects that surround us and the way in which they relate to one another. Camille Henrot orders and arranges over four hundred photographs, watercolours, bronzes and artefacts according to principles that obtain from the most diverse cultural, philosophical and biological contexts, primarily demonstrating, in a superimposition of this kind, the excesses of this compulsive desire for order that

purportedly leads to the acquisition of knowledge. In the course of this approach, Henrot experiments with different scales and chronologies, ranging from the history of the universe to the universe within the artist's studio. Thus, the exhibition becomes a model for the activity of archiving, conservation and ultimately, the relocation and retrieval of information. Piles of rolled up images become objects, artefacts from museum collections are supplemented or replaced by eBay purchases or slideshows in digital picture frames. Henrot bridges the divide between the construction and systematisation of knowledge on the one hand and haptic, sensory experience on the other. Thereby she refers to all of our needs – artistic as well as private – to create small, fantastical model worlds from the things that surround us, both as a means and strategy to situate and anchor ourselves in reality.

The pale fox in the title is taken from an anthropological study of the West African Dogon tribe (Griaule/Dieterlen 1965). In their religion, the pale fox stands for disorder and chaos, but equally for genesis and becoming; according to legend, the pale fox was responsible for the birth of the sun. Thus, disorder is not judged as a failing but as the precondition for creativity. At the same time, Henrot recognises a symptom of our digital age in the figure of the pale fox: the avid human driven by curiosity and impatience, whose pale complexion reflects the luminous play of the computer screen through which he peers at the world at night from the sanctity of his burrow.

“The Pale Fox” represents a further development of ideas in her previous video piece “Grosse Fatigue” (2013, 13 min.). This video, which will also be screened as part of this exhibition, is an attempt to create an encyclopaedia of knowledge, or rather the admission that this is an impossible undertaking.

Camille Henrot was born in Paris in 1978 and is based in New York. Henrot was awarded the prestigious Silver Lion at the 55th Biennale di Venezia in 2013 and garnered the Kunststiftung NRW's Nam June Paik Award in November 2014. *The Guardian* ranks “The Pale Fox” among the ten best art shows of the year.

Commissioned and produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen; Bétonsalon - Centre for art and research, Paris and Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster with support from Johann König, Berlin and kamel mennour, Paris. The exhibition in Münster was supported by Brillux. Also Brillux was responsible for the realisation of the royal blue design.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Opening

Friday, 20 February at 7 pm (admission free)

Exhibition walkthrough with Camille Henrot

Saturday, 21 February at 11 am

Guided Tours with artistic director Kristina Scepanski

Thursday, 26 February at 6 pm

Friday, 20 March at 6 pm

Saturday, 11 April at 2 pm

Thursday, 28 April at 6 pm

Late Friday

Open from 11 am to 10 pm, Admission free

13 March; 10 April and 8 May 2015

The exhibition was funded by Kunststiftung NRW.

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Westfälischer Kunstverein is supported by Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe and the City of Münster.

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