

PRESS RELEASE

NEİL BELOUFA. GLOBAL AGREEMENT

AUGUST 23–OCTOBER 28, 2018

The award-winning video and installation artist Neïl Beloufa will be realising a unique project by transforming the Schirn into a stage. He will create sculptural stages in various spaces outside the classic exhibition areas of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in which he presents his newest film. Film constitutes the focus and point of departure in Beloufa's oeuvre. He also uses its production parameters, such as set, lighting, editing, and perspective, for the development of his pictures, sculptures, and installations. These installations and spaces serve as means of expression for the story of the film—as media in and on which the respective narrative is depicted. Fiction and reality are fused in Beloufa's filmic narratives: the artist creates situations in which the protagonists speak of things that could have happened or not. In the next step these situations are repeated as if they were being observed once more—the fiction, the commentary on the fiction, and finally the commentary on the production of a fictional situation are combined artistically. Viewers become irritated by their own perception and eventually can no longer distinguish between truth and falsehood. Again and again, Beloufa explores art and his own production as an artist in his work. His works are collaborative, with the aim of eliminating the singular position and perspective of the author.

Beloufa is concerned with social structures. Power is a central subject of his work: the social hierarchies between people and states as well as the impact of images on the perception of reality. Based on the insight that today reality and meaning are created in the internet, are first taken account of on screens, and that the public realm is not merely influenced but decisively brought forth in this way, Beloufa analyses the human relationship to digital technologies and their effects in his work. In the Schirn, he presents his new film and installation *Global Agreement*. The work deals with the human body as well as its discursive and political meaning and testifies to Beloufa's recent interest in the military, in weapons, fitness, beauty, the cult of the body, and forms of self-presentation in the social media. The artist has conducted interviews with people in the respective internet communities and chatrooms where they exchange their experiences and views.

Neïl Beloufa (*1985 in Paris) lives and works in Paris. He studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris as well as at the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, and the Cooper Union, New York. His works have been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including the K11, Shanghai; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. He was honoured with numerous awards such as the Meurice Prize for Contemporary Art 2013, the Audi Talent Awards 2011 and the Agnès B. Studio Collector Award 2010

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich

VENUE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt **DURATION** August 23–October 28, 2018 **INFORMATION** www.schirn.de **E-MAIL** welcome@schirn.de **TELEPHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-0 **FAX** +49.69.29 98 82-240

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