

PRESS RELEASE

UPDATED EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2020 / 2021

RAMIN HAERIZADEH, ROKNI HAERIZADEH, AND HESAM RAHMANIAN

EITHER HE'S DEAD OR MY WATCH HAS STOPPED. GROUCHO MARX (WHILE GETTING THE PATIENT'S PULSE)

SEPTEMBER 3—DECEMBER 13, 2020

The expansive installations of Ramin Haerizadeh (*1975), Rokni Haerizadeh (*1978), and Hesam Rahmanian (*1980) transport viewers into a highly distinctive world. The Iranian artist collective creates surprising encounters that draw attention to the urgent political and social conflicts of our age, challenging power mechanisms, normative gender roles, and the art world. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will present the trio's first solo exhibition in Germany. Based on the principle of *work in progress*, the artists bring together new and existing works to create immersive installations. The starting point and centerpiece of the exhibition is a monumental floor painting created especially for the Schirn—a dense web of detailed narratives and references. It is supplemented by additional works, including sculptures and video works, such as *We Are the Eighth of a Kind* (2014, in collaboration with the artist and musician Lonnie Holley), *From Sea to Dawn* (2016), and the new production *If I Had Two Paths I Would Choose the Third* (2020). The base and center of the trio's artistic work is their house in Dubai. In the process of living and working together, they create artworks and exhibitions—frequently in an exchange with friends or other artists. The exhibition at the Schirn thus also includes two textile sculptures by the Egyptian artist Hoda Tawakol. In accordance with their definition of the collective, the artists work together in their own style as well as independently of one another. Their work returns again and again to the crises in the Near East and revolves around exile and migration. With a melancholy poetry and biting humor, Haerizadeh, Haerizadeh, and Rahmanian transform bleak scenes into caricature-like grotesques that reflect the abstruse nature of the globalized world.

CURATOR Martina Weinhart, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** Verein der Freunde der Schirn Kunsthalle e. V.

WE NEVER SLEEP

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020—JANUARY 10, 2021

The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is dedicating an international group exhibition to espionage with its power to fascinate, illuminating this theme as a current source of artistic inspiration. Although spies are presented as glamorous in popular culture, the information they obtain from covert campaigns is socially explosive. Espionage is linked to the unauthorized procurement of rare secrets or confidential information. While in the past national governments spied on individuals or states, in times of digital communication private individuals are now able to reveal hidden governmental secrets or whistleblowers can expose governments spying on their own citizens. This has created the perfect grounds for a renewed interest in the mechanisms of secrecy. The exhibition presents works from around 40 international artists, including Simon Denny, Thomas Demand, Stan Douglas, Dora García, Rodney Graham, Gabriel Lester, Jill Magid, Metahaven, Trevor Paglen, Cornelia Schleime, Noam Toran, Suzanne Treister, and Nomedá & Gediminas Urbonas. About 70 paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures, and installations address the topic from a contemporary perspective, with the works touching on aspects of espionage like surveillance, paranoia, conspiracy, threat, camouflage, cryptography, manipulation, or

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propaganda. On view are a multitude of artistic strategies and unexpected objects, exploring the “golden age” of espionage during the Cold War and in the context of media super-exposure.

CURATORS Cristina Ricupero in collaboration with Katharina Dohm, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt
THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY Verein der Freunde der Schirn Kunsthalle e. V. with members of the Schirn Kuratorium as well as Stadt Frankfurt am Main

2021

MAGNETIC NORTH IMAGINING CANADA IN PAINTING 1910–1940 FEBRUARY 5—MAY 16, 2021

Ancient forests in remote regions, majestic vistas of the Arctic, the magic of the northern lights—Canadian modernist painting conceives a mythical Canada. At the beginning of the twentieth century, artists such as Franklin Carmichael, Emily Carr, J.E.H. MacDonald, Lawren S. Harris, Edwin Holgate, Arthur Lismer, Tom Thomson, and F.H. Varley ventured, full of pictorial experimentation, away from urban centers and deep into the nature. They sought to create a new pictorial vocabulary for a young nation coming into its own cultural identity. In a captivating visual language, these paintings and sketches epitomize the dream of a “new” world, constructing the idyll of a magnificent landscape beyond the reality of the Indigenous population, modern city life, and the expanding industrial exploitation of nature. On the occasion of Canada being Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will be presenting major aspects of Canadian modern landscape painting from a current-day standpoint, bringing together principal works from major Canadian collections, which are on view in Germany for the first time. Featuring some 80 paintings and 40 sketches, as well as photographs, films, and documentary material, this comprehensive exhibition will examine and critically review the works by artists around the *The Group of Seven*, which are extremely popular in Canada. As a counter-narrative, that has equal resonance in Canada, the show will include Indigenous perspectives and address issues surrounding the formation of national identities.

An exhibition of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in cooperation with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

CURATORS Dr. Martina Weinhart, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Georgiana Uhlyarik, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto and Katerina Atanassova, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** Canadian Heritage

GILBERT & GEORGE THE GREAT EXHIBITION FEBRUARY 12—MAY 16, 2021

Gilbert & George have been creating art together now for over half a century. Their outstanding body of work is still as explosive as it is significant. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is dedicating an extensive retrospective to the visually powerful and sometimes provocative universe of this eccentric, London-based artist duo, showing works from 1971 until 2019. As both subject and object of their own work, Gilbert & George form a complete artistic unity that draws no distinction between art and life. As “living sculptures,” they embody their art and are both topic and focal point of their large-format collages and screened pictorial worlds. Their work revolves around death, hope, life, fear, sex, money, and religion. These are also societal issues, which they depict in all their contradictions: at once joyful and tragic, grotesque and serious, surreal and symbolic. The

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duo deal with everything that makes us uneasy. Their goal, however, is not to shock, but rather to make visible what is happening in the world, according to their motto "Art for All." From punks to hipsters, from authorities to outsiders, and from headlines to advertising—Gilbert & George have something to say about it all. By challenging our picture of the world, their works demonstrate, time and again, how forward-thinking they are.

An exhibition by the Luma Foundation and Moderna Museet, Stockholm, in cooperation with the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt.

CURATORS Hans Ulrich Obrist and Daniel Birnbaum

PAULA MODERSOHN-BECKER **OCTOBER 8, 2021—FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

No other German woman artist of Classic Modernism has achieved the same legendary status as Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876–1907) in the public awareness. Within a few years of her death, travelling exhibitions were organized through various German museums, and the artist continues to enjoy high esteem even today. In her unique works, Modersohn-Becker created timeless images of universal validity. The extensive retrospective at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is dedicated to Modersohn-Becker's entire oeuvre and shows how she anticipated central developments of modernism. In addition to succinct series and pictorial motifs, the exhibition also focuses in particular on the artist's remarkable painting style, as well as the early and lasting reception of her work. With some 120 paintings and drawings from all her creative phases, the Schirn presents a contemporary view of the works of this early representative of the avant-garde, whose time-transcending quality continues to fascinate viewers to this day.

CURATOR Ingrid Pfeiffer, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

PREVIEW 2022

CHAGALL **WORLD IN TURMOIL** **FALL 2022**

Marc Chagall (1887–1985) is regarded as the poet among the artists of modernism. In a major exhibition, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt sheds light on a so far little-known side of his oeuvre: Chagall's works of the 1930s and 1940s, in which the artist's colorful palette becomes darker. The life and work of the Jewish painter were profoundly affected by the art policies of the National Socialists and the Holocaust. By the early 1930s, Chagall's works were already examining the increasingly aggressive anti-Semitism in Europe, and he finally emigrated to the United States in 1941. During these years, his art works touch on central themes such as identity, homeland, and exile. With more than 100 haunting paintings, works on paper, photos, and documents, the exhibition traces the artist's search for a pictorial language in the face of expulsion and persecution. It presents important works from the 1930s, in which Chagall focused more and more on the Jewish world, numerous self-portraits, his orientation toward allegorical and Biblical themes, and the important designs in exile for the ballets *Aleko* (1942) and *The Firebird* (1945). The exhibition also addresses the artist's recurring preoccupation with his hometown, Vitebsk, and main works such as *The Falling Angel* (1923/1933/1947). Altogether, the Schirn will provide a new and highly relevant view of the oeuvre of one of the most important artists of the twentieth century.

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CURATOR Dr. Ilka Voermann, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain gGmbH, Ernst Max von Grunelius Stiftung and Georg und Franziska Speyersche Hochschulstiftung

SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

VENUE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt **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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PRESS Johanna Pulz (Head of Press/PR), Julia Bastian (Press Officer), Isabelle Hammer (Trainee) **SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT** Römerberg 60311 Frankfurt **TELEPHONE** +49 69 29 98 82-148 **FAX** +49 69 29 98 82-240 **E-MAIL** presse@schirn.de