

Press Release

The Chroniclers of Paradoxical Coexistences:

RÖMER + RÖMER present a new Solo Exhibition in Berlin

It has taken the Berlin artist couple RÖMER + RÖMER three years to set up their upcoming new solo exhibition, to be presented in the Capital from the 10th of October onwards. With this rendering, the Russian-German couple, who are currently also exhibiting their work at the Venice Biennale, are coming to terms with the "Holiday Communism" showcased annually at the legendary Fusion Festival (ФУЗИОН). With their paintings, A.R.Penck's former master class students reveal themselves to be the subtle chroniclers of paradoxical societies. Their exhibition, named "Where is Yesterday, actually?" will be presented at the Michael Schultz Gallery in Charlottenburg until November 14, 2015.

Since 1997, the Fusion Festival, the self-appointed "largest holiday camp in the republic", is set up every summer on the grounds of a former Soviet military airport. The cyrillic rendering ФУЗИОН is equally well-known. The motto "Four Days of Holiday Communism" aims at transporting participants into a collective state of being in a completely different context, mirroring the longing for a better world.

The variety of music styles and genres as well as the conscious lack of commercials, media pre-

sence and any kind of sponsoring set the Fusion Festival and its audience apart from other raves. The married couple Torsten and Nina Römer, also known under the designation of RÖMER + RÖMER, participated at this Event between 2012 and 2014. They recorded their observations in countless photographs. Later a selection of suitable motifs and details was digitally altered. This enhanced data serves as a point of departure for the duo's paintings, with explicit references to their photographic origins. However, their works, which are partly large formats, steer clear of any photorealism. They have created artistic transformations that capture various impressions of the Festival by day and night, presenting different moods of light.

Picture Puzzles in the Era of Selfies

Many stages of abstractions are necessary, from RÖMER + RÖMERs' point of departure. their first retinal impression, to photographic images and digital image editing, until they arrive at the painted transformation of their subjects. The Duo disassembles their motifs on canvas into a pixelated grid pattern formed out of individual colours. It is only from a certain distance that the dots assemble into a crisp image visible to the viewer's eyes. While approaching step by step, persons and objects are dissolved into the abstract play of colours: the apparently realistic image is revealed as a complex interaction of artistic, sensory and cognitive processes, as an illusion. As a departure from the impressionist form of Pointillism, the colour pixels can be seen as a reference to the digital flood of images in the media era of selfies.

This is how the images progress towards displaying picture puzzles of a parallel society. The "Fusionist" collective is rendered diffuse, tending towards mystification, and at the same time, clearly revealed as an illusion. The paintings by RÖMER + RÖMER mirror the paradoxical nature of the

Festival community: fusion attendees join up for a limited period, united towards a great common ideal, seeking to escape the estrangement and constrictions of everyday life for a few days. With this common objective, they conform to new structures and rules on site. Simultaneously the participants of the Festival realize their desire for individual freedom, pursuing a life of hedonism that is only accountable towards themselves and their sense of pleasure.

“Paradoxical Coexistences“

Sociologist Babette Kirchner has described this contradiction between individual and collective interests in her analysis of the Fusion Festival (Eventgemeinschaften. Das Fusion Festival und seine Besucher, Wiesbaden 2011) as “paradoxical coexistences“. In their role of subtle chroniclers, RÖMER + RÖMER reveal these contradictions in their emotional situational documentary, and at the same time abstract renderings, without being judgmental in any way.

About RÖMER + RÖMER

Torsten Römer (b. 1968 in Aachen) and Nina Römer (b.1978 as Nina Tangian in Moscow) studied painting at the Düsseldorf College of Arts until 2003. Both later became master class students with A.R. Penck. Since 1998 they have worked as an artist couple on joint projects and artworks. Their interest in various societal systems, people and ethnic backgrounds is not only reflected in their oeuvre, but also in their travels, performances and actions in public spaces.

Their artistic CV charts multiple solo and group exhibitions across Germany and abroad, among others, at the Today Art Museum in Beijing, at Freight+Volume Gallery in New York, at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Korean Gwangju Art Museum, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Kunsthalle Rostock, Künstlerhaus Wien, the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen, or the Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt.

Various participations at Biennale formats brought RÖMER + RÖMER to Venice (56th Biennale, 2015), Istanbul, Vancouver, San Francisco, (Emergency Biennale, 2005-2008), Liverpool (Liverpool Biennale, 2002) and Turin (Big Torino, 2002). The couple lives and works in Berlin. For further information, visit www.roemer.tv.

English translation: Sujata Banerjee

RÖMER + RÖMER: Wo ist eigentlich GESTERN?

("Where is Yesterday, actually?")

Michael Schultz Gallery

Mommsenstraße 34

10629 Berlin

www.schultzberlin.com

Vernissage

Sat, October 10, 2015, 7 – 9 pm

Opening hours

October 13 – November 14, 2015

Tue – Fri 10 am – 7 pm

Sat 10 am – 2 pm

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Pressebilder

Folgende Pressebilder stellen wir auf Anfrage zur nicht-kommerziellen Verwendung im Rahmen einer aktuellen redaktionellen Berichterstattung über RÖMER + RÖMER und ihre Ausstellung „Wo ist eigentlich GESTERN?“ sowie unter Angabe der Credits honorarfrei zur Verfügung. Weitere Motive und Bildformate auf Anfrage.



RÖMER + RÖMER: Shower Tower Oase (2014) | 200 x 750 cm (Triptychon) | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



RÖMER + RÖMER: Sputnik (2015) | 110 x 150 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



RÖMER + RÖMER: Wo ist eigentlich GESTERN? (2015) | 110 x 150 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



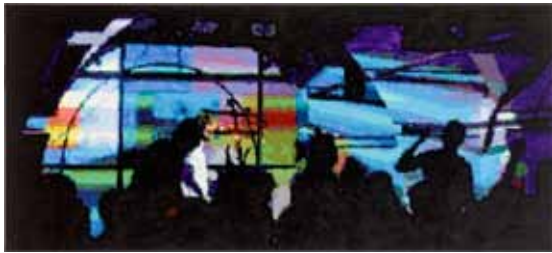
RÖMER + RÖMER: Party Sträflinge (2014) | 200 x 250 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



RÖMER + RÖMER: Tanz auf der Seebühne (2015) | 110 x 150 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow

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RÖMER + RÖMER: Cut Out Visuals (2015) | 45 x 100 cm | Öl auf Leinwand
© RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



RÖMER + RÖMER: Chill Out zur Geisterstunde (2015) | 70 x 160 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



links: RÖMER + RÖMER: Schaumwein-Leuchtkörper (2015) | 290 x 90 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow

Mitte: RÖMER + RÖMER: Vier Gewinnt (2015) | 190 x 30 cm | Öl auf Leinwand
© RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow



RÖMER + RÖMER: Selfie vor Antifa auf dem Fusion Festival (2014) | © RÖMER + RÖMER

rechts: RÖMER + RÖMER: Techno Flamingo (2015) | 190 x 35 cm | Öl auf Leinwand | © RÖMER + RÖMER, Courtesy Galerie Michael Schultz / Foto: Eric Tschernow