

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOLESTANI GALLERY

Ulmenstraße 38
40476 Düsseldorf

www.golestani.gallery
office@golestani.gallery

Raynes Birkbeck: Flash to Pappy, I'm on Your Tail

Dates: Sept. 12 - Oct. 17, 2020

Reception: Sept. 12th 6 - 8pm?

GOLESTANI is pleased to present New York-based artist Raynes Birkbeck's first international solo exhibition titled "Flash to Pappy, I'm on Your Tail" opening on Sept. 12th. The show features a series of new paintings depicting the Schwarzwald (The Black Forest), alongside works on paper and sculptures completed throughout the past decade. Born in the Bronx in 1956, Birkbeck's unique vision melds personal and fictitious accounts with the aesthetics of ecology, politics, war, religion, and queer representation.

In the artist's latest body of work, Birkbeck envisions Germany, a place he's never been. Combining polyamory and German folklore with imagined prehistoric history, both dinosaurs and lederhosen-clad hunters linger amongst dark trees. In the painting "Alpine Love," after climbing the Alps, a group of men make love on the summit. Birkbeck has an aptitude for pulling together a wide range of references and improvising disparate connections. Discussing his thought process behind the painting, he explains, "I was imagining what it would be like in Germany. I've seen enough pictures to know about The Schwarzwald. I also know when the Dutch and Germans settled Africa, they called it the wald. And Americans had a famous president with 'velt' in his last name, Roosevelt. Roose is roses. Maybe it means flowering forest? Something like that." Birkbeck's artworks follow this personalized logic with liberal doses of free association. He doesn't censor himself, rather indulges the subconscious. The results reveal a diverse cast of historical and contemporary personas that co-exist on multiple, simultaneous timelines.

Additionally, space travel and environmental concerns are recurring motifs in the series of drawings on display. The title for the exhibition comes from the work, "Ganymede In Orbit: Birkbeck, DeMarco, and Davies," in which Birkbeck portrays himself as an astronaut. Rockets launch from a Global Sea Wall after the Earth floods and people search for alternate universes to inhabit. Code names are used, and the planes, spaceships, and helicopters have speech bubbles drawn above them with tiny letters in ballpoint pen, recounting a sci-fi fantasy. Pappy, Bad Billy, The Bearded Man, and Bull attempt communication, but Birkbeck revels in the vagueness behind the statements. He explains the phrase "I'm on your tail" could be either aggressive, as in someone's about to be attacked, or it might be friendly, just letting someone know you're joining their flight group.

RAYNES BIRKBECK (b. 1956, The Bronx) lives and works in Manhattan. He is a self-taught artist who paints, sculpts, draws, and writes poetry. He has exhibited work at SITUATIONS, New York; Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles; Norma Mangione Gallery, Turin, Italy; The Bureau of General Services -- Queer Division, New York; The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York; Fierman Gallery, New York; Safe Gallery, Brooklyn; and Apexart, New York. His work has been reviewed in Artforum, Art in America, and Vault Magazine amongst others. Additionally, Willow Glen Films is producing a documentary set for release next year.

GOLESTANI is located at Ulmenstraße 38, 40476 Düsseldorf. Hours are Wednesday - Friday, 12—6PM and Saturday, 11—2PM. For more information write to the email address (office@golestani.gallery) or visit our website (www.golestani.gallery).