

Press Release

DREAMING AWAY

Yuri Kuper

Hannes Schmid

Hristo Mavrev

Anouk Sebald

Jacques Naegeli

Opening on July 6 (Thursday), 6 - 9pm

Exhibition from July 7 - 30, 2023



Yuri Kuper 1986. Glass and drawer No 1. Acryl et collage sur bois et toile. 100 x 100 cm

"Dreaming Away" is an exhibition that transcends past and the future, East and West. It invites the viewer to shed the weight of the past and follow the artists into a borderless world of hope...

The exhibition presents an artwork by the Swiss photographer **Hannes Schmid** and a photograph from the **Jacques Naegeli** archive, several paintings by the English artist **Yuri Kuper** (in collaboration with Patrick Cramer Gallery), installation objects by the french artist **Hristo Mavrev** and a video work by the artist **Anouk Sebald** from Berne.

Also on view will be a selection of exclusive furniture by **Atelier Oi, Trix and Robert Haussmann, Aebi & Vincent, Tomek Archer, Tomoko Azumi, Koni Ochsner** and **Susi & Ueli Berger**.

In the photographic piece "Im Landhaus Saanen" by **Jacques Naegeli** (ca 1930), a beam of light penetrates the dark room, illuminating the table where several men are sitting. The incredible play of light and shadow in this vintage photograph emphasizes the subtlety and skill of the photographer to capture just this exact "magic of the moment".*

In "Spring", from his series dedicated to Mongolia, photographer **Hannes Schmid** has depicted a Mongolian family on a motorcycle preparing to embark on a journey. There is a long way to go across the vast steppe. But spring is here, a symbol of new life and hope!

"Mongolia, a place where vast landscapes stretch as far as the eye can see. A captivating black and white photograph capturing a moment of intrigue and adventure transports you to a bygone era in a time when the world was still discovering the new wonders of travel. The expressions on the people's faces reveal a shared anticipation, a shared dream of exploration and discovery, albeit with a tinge of doubt and weariness. The image captures the spirit of adventure, the desire to dream and embrace the unknown. The black and white tones of the image amplify its timeless quality serving as a powerful testament to the beauty of the past and the dreams that drive us forward forever etched in monochrome".

British artist **Yuri Kuper** combines two worlds at once - the Western in which he lives and works, and at the same time the post-soviet space where he was born and whose traces, though blurred, are still flashing in the echoes of memory. It seems that the artist seeks to overcome the boundaries invented by mankind and, at the same time, to cope with the weight that his life experience has left behind. Especially symbolic here is the old door to the imaginary future, confidently marked with the inscription "Love".

This is an example of how Kuper can "transform a particular detail into the entrance to a different universe..." How art historian Mikhail Guerman (Yuri Kuper, Patrick Cramer Publisher, 2017) writes: "His (Kuper's) universe is a perpetual round dance of metaphors, in which the imagined becomes reality, the

depicted becomes material and the material is its own allegory, symbol, and mirage". The imaginary reality of his still lifes "is far more material than ordinary reality, it is tangible, it has texture and weight, it exists in a dense space, surrounded by air, mist, and haze, caressed by light and colour reflexes, and at times, like magical crystals, it radiance its own effulgence".

Hristo Mavrev, a French artist of Bulgarian origin, is working on the question of identity and belonging. Artist tries to recall the conversations with his father and as if in a dream to reconnect with him mentally. Mavrev visualizes the image of his father's carnival costumes worn at Bulgarian folk festivals. Carnival has always been considered as a unique moment where everything was possible. It was a time of joy and liberty, these days broke down barriers between estates, skipped the rules of formality and prescribed decorum. Disagreements and fights were forgotten and even the wars stopped their course... It was a time when dreaming was allowed!

Bern-based video artist **Anouk Sebald** also works with the theme of identity. In her video works she flies in the clouds or swims deep underwater, the artist puts her body in a space free of any kind of imposed imperatives and here she allows herself to spread the wings. Here she truly feels all her feminine essence, immerses herself in the fairy tale she has created, somewhat reminiscent of childhood dreams. The artist reconnects with her true self and confidently breaks all visible and invisible obstacles of the men ruled world.

(*) From the song "Wind of Change" by Scorpions, dedicated to future dreams of freedom and peace...

Take me to the magic of the moment
On a glory night
Where the children of tomorrow dream away
In the wind of change...

For questions please get in touch with Anna Högl

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In collaboration with the **Röthlisberger Collection**

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Opening hours July 7 - 30, 2023
Thu - Sun from 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm
and by appointment