

## KAREL FUNK

October 2 – January 8, 2021

Opening reception October 1, 2020, 2–8 pm

RIBORDY THETAZ is delighted to announce the first solo show by Canadian artist Karel Funk in Switzerland. The exhibition focuses on Karel Funk's signature 'hood paintings'. Painted in hyper-real style, their scale are always slightly larger than life size, resulting in anonymous and psychological abstractions.

Each painting is the result of a long and meticulous process of construction of the image. After carefully choosing his subject, i.e. a hooded jacket that has a rich color, a specific texture and shape, Funk takes photographs of models wearing the jackets he'd purchased.

The image construction process often takes a long time, carefully selecting the right image from dozens of photographs and then editing it on Photoshop. By meticulously painting a person wearing a monochrome hooded jacket on a white background, Funk erases all information and emotional state of the subject that we normally expect from a portrait.

The painted portraits are subjects at odd close-up angles, whose gaze is turned inwards, away from the viewer. When looking at the painting, we have a sense of intimacy and invaded personal space, reflecting the artist own experience of anonymity in close proximity to others while living in New York City.

Formally, Karel Funk's paintings are about light, reflection, rippling fabric that recall Renaissance portraiture. The resulting paintings are quiet, still and meditative.

Karel Funk was born in 1971. He received a BFA from the University of Manitoba in 1997 and an MFA from Columbia University in New York in 2003. Solo exhibitions include Winnipeg Art Gallery, 2016; Rochester Art Center, MN, 2009; and Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montreal, 2007. He has been included in group exhibitions at venues including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg; and Fondation Antoine de Galbert, Paris. Funk's work is held in major museum collections, including the Guggenheim and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Funk lives and works in Winnipeg, Canada.

KAREL FUNK - SOLO SHOW  
02.10.20 - 08.01.21

1. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #89  
2018  
acrylic on panel  
24 x 30 1/4 inches | 61 cm x 76.8 cm



2. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #76  
2016  
acrylic on panel  
24 x 34 inches | 61 cm x 61 cm



3. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #97  
2020  
acrylic on panel  
18 1/2 x 20 inches | 47 cm x 50.8 cm



4. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #96  
2020  
acrylic on panel  
27 x 31 3/4 inches | 68.6 cm x 81.6 cm



5. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #86  
2017  
acrylic on panel  
40 x 42 inches | 101.6 cm x 106.7 cm



6. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #99  
2020  
acrylic on panel  
26 x 28 1/8 inches | 66 cm x 71.4 cm



7. KAREL FUNK  
Untitled #98  
2020  
acrylic on panel  
27 x 30 1/4 inches | 68.6 cm x 76.8 cm

