Stephen Ongpin Fine Art



Jonas BURGERT (West Berlin 1969 -)

Wind war

Graphite on paper.

Signed, titled and dated 2022 at the lower right.

900 x 700 mm. [sheet]

120 x 100 cm. [framed]

'...this is an art that exhibits its own struggling into being: blind, halting, bent double, always inchoate – so it is Burgert's figures haul themselves upright; their expressions may be confused or determined, bewildered or nonplussed – but it makes no difference: they must bear the weight of this enacted negotiation, one at which the terms of endearment and alienation will be forever fixed.' (Will Self, 'The Margins of Vision', in Jess Fletcher and Christine Albrecht, ed., Jonas Burgert, Cologne, 2016, p.13).

Artist description:

The son of a painter, the contemporary German Jonas Burgert was born in 1969 in West Berlin, and he continues to live and work in the city today. He graduated from the Berlin Academy of Fine Arts (UdK) in 1996, and the following year studied for the postgraduate title Meisterschueler, under Professor Dieter Hacker. Active as a painter, draughtsman and sculptor, Burgert had his first one-man exhibition in Hamburg in 2006. More recent exhibitions include Bosch & Burgert at the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna in 2017-2018, which placed the artist's work alongside Hieronymous Bosch's Last Judgement triptych of c.1482, as well as solo exhibitions at the Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (MAMbo) in 2017, the ARP Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck in Remagen in 2020, and the Long Museum West Bund in Shanghai in 2021. Paintings by Burgert are today in the collections of the Denver Art Museum in Colorado, the Hamburger Kunstalle in Hamburg and the Long Museum in Shanghai, as well as in numerous private collections in Europe, America and Asia.

Although Burgert is known predominantly for intensely coloured, life-size figurative paintings, often on a

very large scale, his drawings reveal the intricacy of the artist's character studies in black and white. Densely populated tableaux are how Burgert explores non-linear storytelling. Often created at the same time as these expansive pictorial dramas, the subjects of his individual portraits are exiles from the main story, isolated within their own frame. Untethered from a central narrative, they become newly enigmatic, each alluding to its own particular mysteries. Burgert is interested in the personification of psychology through figurative painting and it is his ongoing close observation of human emotion that gives his characters such a potent charge. As one writer and curator has commented, '[Burgert] primarily works on large-scale paintings inhabited by objects, animals, people and whimsical entities that disintegrate and constantly mutate. Tiny people and gigantic creatures spill out of cracks, perish between petals or sink into dull sheets; scraps of clothing without bodies to wear them; eyes staring into the void. Burgert's paintings elude straightforward interpretation, they explore a higher reality and invoke the end of the world through personalities with multiple inner lives…A constant need to portray hope and failure, beauty and confusion, prevails. Through his paintings, the artist strives to create spaces dedicated to the spiritual representation of ourselves – so that the observer is transformed into a creature, a figure within this painted reality...Jonas Burgert's work is dominated by restlessness, it abounds in imagination while conveying authentic inner realities and energy.'