



Artists /tbc.:

Nasser Almulhim, Christian Achenbach, Chrissy Angliker, Inna Artemova, Tom Biber, Andreas Blank, Anina Brisolla, Claus Brunsmann, Claudia Chaseling, Ali Dowlathshahi, Kerstin Dzewior, Daniel Grüttner, Chris Hammerlein, Anne Jungjohann, David Krippendorff, Via Lewandowsky, Milovan Destil Markovic, Sara Masüger, Almagul Menlibayeva, Manfred Peckl, Kirsten Palz, David Regehr, Stefan Rinck, Jörg Schaller, Huda Al Saie, Maik Schierloh, Nina E. Schönfeld, Kerstin Serz, David Szauder, Yasmin Sharabi, Pola Sieverding, Vadim Zakharov, Jindrich Zeithamml, Ireen Zielonka

### BEYOND ELYSIUM - 10 days after: BEYOND ELYSIUM

Despite the great success and interest in our luckily successful experiment of a group exhibition with 24 artists on almost 50 square meters at this year's POSITIONS Art Fair Berlin 2020, many of our friends and collectors could not gain entrance due to Carona restrictions and the mass of people wanting to get into the fair. That is why we immediately said "Yes!" To a spontaneous offer for an exhibition space at Check Point Charlie (Berlin-Mitte) and can now offer a second opportunity to see BEYOND ELYSIUM again 10 days after ELYSIUM! Therefore we ask you to SAVE THE DATE for a second chance to view our group exhibition opening again this Wednesday, September 23rd from 6:00 pm onwards at a new location near Checkpoint Charlie!

Exhibition Text:

There has never before been a pandemic that, like the rampant Covid 19 infection, can apparently endanger all people on earth at the same time; never before have all people on earth, at the same time, asked themselves the question: What is really important now? Through their shared vulnerabilities, never before have so many people faced the realisation of their similarities. And with so much going wrong in the world, our thoughts can't help but turn to dreams of a happier beyond. "Elysium", the island of the blessed as a mythological place, as an ideal or state, is an image that contrasts to the sufferings of this world. As a

concept, it is present in many cultures and religions as a utopia, as an idea and as hope. The longing for Elysium is therefore a deeply human need. It has been redesigned and defended again and again, and also in connection with religious supremacy and ideologies instrumentalized in power politics, or simply with the need for anesthesia and intoxication or the right to individual love and sexuality.

In our small exhibition, the Elysian realms are not to be understood as a place of flight from the world. Elysium is not to be found only in the unattainable. You find it – beautiful and mysterious, non-violent and full of humor – even in the middle of everyday life, in the here and now. Elysium is also signified in the heightened moments of life, an intoxication with existence, the moment of happiness. This short exhibition aims to raise awareness of this possibility of fulfilled moments.

We all have only this one world and only this one life – and we have only one duty, namely to find happiness for ourselves and for others. To find our “gap”. This corresponds to the meaning of the Middle High German word for “luck”, which was also “gap”. Nobody can really be happy if they have no chance, no gap in which to realize themselves, and nobody can be “happy” or “successful” in the face of the misery of others. Since Corona, more people around the world have become aware of this than ever before.

It is all the more exciting to be able to tie the the ELYSIUM exhibition in with the themes of the previous large group exhibition by KLEINERVONWIESE and MOMENTUM, “bonum et malum”. What does “bonum et malum” / good and evil mean in our current times? What exactly is paradise today?

The aim of the ELYSIUM exhibition is to interrogate this from a wider perspective and, at the same time, refer to the phenomenon of the connectedness of all people, despite our supposedly profound cultural differences. We all have common roots, as expressed in our cultural histories, which are often older than the history of the respective religions of the various peoples. All Abrahamic religions have a common, geographically localized starting point, namely the city of Uruk, which was a cultural hotspot in Mesopotamia and the hometown of Abraham more than 5000 years ago. However, Gilgamesh, the hero of an even older mythical tale, was also born here. The Sumerian-Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh (12th century BC) tells of the search for an earthly paradise.

According to current knowledge, this “Dilmun” (the Sumerian name for a paradisiacal land) is the cultivated land of the gardens in what was then Bahrain and nearby areas. Contemporary research assumes that these Oriental Gardens of Paradise were the inspiration for the Occidental Paradise Garden. Seen in this way, the inspiration for the Garden of Eden of the Jews, Christians and Muslims came from Bahrain and from the Dilmun culture around the Persian Gulf.

In this context, and as a result of initial collaborations with partners from this region, KLEINERVONWIESE & MOMENTUM are also showing two Arab artists, with more to follow. The assembled positions of the ELYSIUM exhibition consciously or unconsciously reflect these interrelationships and – also thinking about the challenges and puzzles of Corona – at the same time the questions: Why do we no longer know about these correlations? Why have we lost our consciousness of what connects us as humans, regardless of where we live and what we believe in? The curators trust in the interplay, correspondence and dissonance of the works, which alternately communicate with, and may reinforce and complement, one another.

Much is currently being rethought in how we live our daily lives and go about our professional lives. Above all, however, when museums and galleries had to close, the Corona crisis showed that work in the artists studios did not come to a standstill. It is especially in times of crisis that we need the clairvoyance of art and its real, sensual knowledge. The ELYSIUM exhibition, and its sister show – BEYOND ELYSIUM – are designed to support art-lovers, artists and their galleries at a time of crisis, and to remind us all that perhaps Elysium can be found in the small miracle of simply bringing people together.

**Kuratoren:**

Constanze Kleiner

Dr. Rachel Rits-Volloch

Frances Stafford

Dr. Stephan von Wiese