

Vincent Wenzel

A Whip and a Biscuit

3rd – 30th November 2009

Grosvenor Gallery presents the first solo show of thirty year old artist Vincent Wenzel in London. Vincent Wenzel, German by origin has recently shown in Art Basel and Galerie Brusberg.

Vincent Wenzel's paintings are like movie scripts. The figures portrayed in these large representational paintings hold, in their awkward gestures, the promise of plot, of future interaction. A dynamic array of characters, faces, dramatic situations, death, promise and fairytale are all fused together within their environment. Upon first glance, the viewer is initially displaced, yet drawn in by what he sees; and although initially difficult to relate to, there is something which stands out, a spark of some kind, which within the chaotic world of the painting, leaves you with an element of serenity.

At the heart of the exhibition is the large dyptich entitled *Freak Frieze (Freakfries)*. Within the fantastical, almost circus-like arena, is a robbery, a pillow fight, ninja warriors, mythological figurines taking flight, blood, violence and men waging war. The painting's surface is crowded with characters, but what is surprising is that there is no dialogue between distinct groups. The panoramic sea of characters, all merged together, crash through each others space and yet ignore each other completely. It's as if they exist in parralel realities, which have been overlaid and compressed onto the canvas. There is an intangible reality in the fairytale-like world of *Freak Frieze*: One which although inaccessible at first, lures you in, grabs you and the complexity which at once caused unease now somehow in some way, starts to make sense.



Freakfries (Freak Frieze), Oil on canvas, 2008, 200cm x 420cm

Another work *Sommernachstraum* presents a dynamic portrayal of elements yet again. Traces from Vincents own world come alight in this work, as he creates his own fictional version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, adding his very own contemporary twist: defining himself clearly as a post-war artist, an artist of this generation.



Sommernachtstraum, Oil on canvas, 2009, 150 x 190cm

Vincent describes himself to be a passionate realist. The dream-like world he presents to us is perhaps not as far from our own realities as we first imagined them to be. He reveals the grotesque strangeness of our everyday actions by portraying them through the lens of mythology.

Vincent Wenzel lives and works in Berlin. This is his first solo show outside of Germany.

Notes to Editors

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- W: www.grosvenorgallery.com
- Private view: Tuesday 3rd of November 6.00pm – 8.30pm
- Opening hours: Mon – Fri 9.30am–5.30pm; Sat by appointment only
- Nearest Underground station: Green Park
- Free entrance

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