

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

"A long period of Melancholy punctuated by brief periods of happiness"

Keith Boadwee

23 April - 28 May, 2022

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts is proud to present the first solo exhibition in The Netherlands of artist Keith Boadwee (1961, USA/ lives and works in Emeryville, California, USA).

Boadwee came of age through a conservative childhood in the sixties in Louisiana, a short period in theatre school, followed by a brief moment in NYC, ending up at UCLA under the guidance of artists Chris Burden, Paul McCarthy, Charles Ray and Roger Herman. While at UCLA, Boadwee developed a performative practice with, through and partly about the male gay/queer body. Through the years his work has been influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites, The Fauves, The Neue Wilden, David Salle, Vienna Action, David Bowie, Freddie Mercury, Punk, Cecil Beaton, Truman Capote, Andre Leon Talley, his good friend Nicole Eisenman, Bjarne Melgaard, novelists Evelyn Waugh and Kingsley Amis, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, The YBA, Ab-Ex and many more. He became widely known for his 'Enema paintings' - whereby Boadwee simultaneously critiques and honors the work of Jackson Pollock by making abstract action paintings using his rectum as a painting instrument. This sarcastic, political, art historical and sub-cultural realm plays an important role in Boadwee's artistic practice, often pushing the boundaries of his medium. The merging of the latter elements is very evident in the collage works that Boadwee has been making since 2016 that will be on view at the gallery exhibition. Here the juxtaposition of art historical imagery and the male nude collide into a new, profound visual language about the appreciation of the male nude, without losing a dada-ist sense of humor.

Recently, the pandemic pushed the artist to a solitary, studio based painting practice, marking the beginning of the frog paintings, followed by the poodle and fish portraits also on view at the gallery. It was a painting series by the controversial Otto Muehl that got Boadwee interested in the animals, evolving into playful abstraction whereby the animals function as vessels to explore the formal aspects of painting like contour, line, negative space, colour, flatness, perspective, and composition. As Keith states it "... the poodles - for example - presented all of the repeating circles. At some point I made the connection to abstraction and particularly to "spiritual" abstraction, thinking of artists such as Hilma AF Klint and Agnes Pelton. The animals are able to convey direct human emotions without focussing on other aspects and assumptions a portrait of a human figure comes with (gender, race, class etc.)".

Keith Boadwee was born in Meridian, MS in 1961 and lives in Emeryville, CA. He received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Berkeley, CA in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, CA in 1989. His work has been included in thematic exhibitions such as AA Bronson's Garden of Earthly Delights, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria (2015); AA Bronson's Sacre du Printemps, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, Austria (2015); 15 Minutes of Fame: Portraits from Ansel Adams to Andy Warhol, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA (2010); Prospect 1.5, New Orleans, LA (2010); Into Me / Out of Me, MoMA PS1, Long Island, NY and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany (2006); Grey Area, California College of Art, San Francisco, CA (2003); The People's Plastic Princess, Banff Center, Calgary, Canada (2000); Double Trouble: The Patchett Collection, San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA (1998); Selections from the Peter and Eileen Norton Collection, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA (1995); Bad Girls, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (1994); Slittamenti, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (1993); and Performance Behind the Curtain, White Columns, New York, NY