



VIP INVITATION SOLO EXHIBITION

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE - Gideon Kiefer

When: Friday, September 27, 2024 – 5-8 PM

Where: MAD Art Gallery (Poland) / Mielżyńskiego 27/29 / 61-725 Poznań, PL

With "Resistance is Futile," Gideon Kiefer presents an impressive solo exhibition featuring new paintings, drawings, and mixed media sculptures. Gideon and Uitstalling Gallery warmly invite you, your partner, friends, and art lovers for a weekend in Poznań. This beautiful cultural city, with its historic buildings, newly renovated center, and the Magdalene Abakanowicz University, where our MAD Gallery is located, is the perfect place to immerse yourself in art while enjoying Gideon's first international solo exhibition! We would also like to show as many friends as possible our gallery, with which we have been actively working for two years in Poland, and to showcase this great Belgian painter in a country bordering a war against which Gideon resists. Join Kiefer's army and come to Poznań!

In his solo, Kiefer takes you back to a special childhood memory: dart shooting with friends in the Hageven nature reserve (Pelt, BE).

Painted station portraits, idyllic landscape scenes, blowpipes carved from wood, and relics from the past are displayed in a space pierced with bronze blowpipes. Military-inspired artifacts, such as insignia-like emblems, hint that Kiefer connects the precious childhood memory with a contemporary issue, the ongoing war in Ukraine, which is all too close in frontline Poland. In a peaceful way, with a children's game, the artist resists (the) war. Join Kiefer's army and create art!

Please let us know by September 22 if you wish to attend by simply sending an email to danny@uitstalling.com or calling Danny Weckx at 0475322826, and we will form a beautiful army there in Poznań. If you are unable to attend but still wish to receive the catalog with the new works, you can, of course, also send an email.

Gideon Kiefer (1970)

In just over ten years, Gideon Kiefer (b. 1970, Belgium) has emerged as a true master of drawing. In 2019, the artist took a new direction with a series of refined oil paintings on wood, presented during the exhibition "A Throwback to Ancient Times, It Is No Coincidence." In his work, Kiefer creates his own unique universe, filled with intimate and strange scenes that are a fusion of reality and imagination. These scenes are based on the artist's memories and his distrust of the accuracy of those memories. Although this personal aspect forms the common thread in his oeuvre, his drawings and paintings also reflect a strong awareness and critique of geopolitical issues and the current global ecological situation. Kiefer prefers to depict these themes in a more metaphorical way. A more recent series builds on "A Throwback to Ancient Times" and draws inspiration from Baroque painters such as Rubens and Caravaggio, as well as the Russian realist Ilya Repin, as Kiefer recalls them from leafing through his grandfather's art books. He takes details that fascinate him, reinterprets them, and gives them new meanings—a process reminiscent of how memory works. Although Kiefer uses classical oil techniques, he avoids traditional supports. In an often collage-like manner, he creates layered narratives, mainly on wooden panels. Dramatic, precisely painted hands are a recurring motif, related to his fascination with the technical challenges they present. Captured in tense gestures, grabbing and holding each other or grasping the rolling skin of naked torsos, these hands are part of Kiefer's layered stories. As in his earlier work, Kiefer adds details such as small red rectangles or black dots that refer to wounds or specific anecdotes. Landscapes, painted in loose brushstrokes, refer to the small Belgian village where he grew up. Handwritten texts often reveal intriguing content hidden in each work, while subtly expressing his concern about climate change and global warming. Kiefer's paintings seamlessly align with his work on paper; he continues to create his own unique microcosm, balancing between traditional and contemporary, intimate stories and global criticism, and moreover, the tension between reality and fiction.