

Marc Bauer, *Mal Être* / Performance

12 September – 17 November 2019

Marc Bauer's *Mal Être / Performance* is a new body of work commissioned jointly by Drawing Room and De La Warr Pavilion and is the artist's first solo exhibition in a UK public gallery. Bauer's chosen medium is drawing which he uses here to make small and large scale works on paper, a wall drawing and an animation.

Mal Être / Performance features the motif of people on boats throughout history, from ancient Greece to contemporary media footage. All of the works are drawn in graphite, and images range from those inspired by fifteenth century Catholic ex-voto paintings, to Théodore Géricault's *The Raft of the Medusa*, up to *Aquarius*, the boat that rescued migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in 2018. Using the slow and cumulative process of drawing and erasing, Bauer's project brings the past into the present in his investigation of humanity. He says:

'This new installation of drawings is an attempt to understand the relationship between images, to see what impact they have on our perception of reality, and how they condition our way of thinking and define our identities.'

The first part of the exhibition title, *Mal Être*, roughly translates from the French to 'being in a bad way'. This condition unites images of people in transit across seas today and in the distant past. *Mal Être* also refers to a sense of unease the viewer may experience when viewing these images, with *Performance* referring to the various roles we adopt.

Marc Bauer describes drawing as '*a way for me and the viewer, to comprehend reality in all its complexity – subjectively, politically, symbolically - and show how history, memory and shifting power structures shade the present.*'

The exhibition is a collaboration between Drawing Room (London) and De La Warr Pavilion (Bexhill on Sea). It will be on exhibition at De La Warr Pavilion from 1st February to 10th May 2020 and FRAC Auvergne (Clermont-Ferrand) in Summer 2020.

An exhibition booklet with an essay by Dr Raphael Gyax is available to purchase for £3.

Marc Bauer (b.1975, Geneva, Switzerland), lives and works in Berlin and Zurich. Bauer studied at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art Visuel, Geneva (1999), and as a post-graduate at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam (2004).

Solo exhibitions include: *Mal Être / Performance*, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France (2020); *Mal Être / Performance*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea, UK (2020); *Mal Être / Performance*, Drawing Room, London, UK (2019); *L'art dans les chapelles*, curated by Eric Suchère, Brittany (2019); *Disegni Sector*, Artissima, Turin, Italy; *Avondland*, Deweer Gallery, Otegem, Belgium (2018); *Tracing Identities, Peckham 2017*, Frieze, London, UK (2017); *Focus sur les collections Marc Bauer, Le Bal*, Musée Jenisch, Vevey, Switzerland (2016); *Cinerama*, FRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Marseille, France (2015); *Der Sammler*, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany (2014).

Group Exhibitions include: *United by AIDS*, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland; *Fly Me to the Moon*, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland (2019); *Drawing Biennial*, Drawing Room, London, UK (2019, 2017, 2015); *Autofictions*, Wilhelm Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany; 21st Biennial, Sydney, Australia (2018); *10 Years Drawing Prize*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; *Ewige Gegenwart*, Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland; *Cinéma mon amour*, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, Switzerland (2017);

Exhibition supported by:

