

NINO MIER GALLERY

LOS ANGELES | BRUSSELS | NEW YORK | MARFA

FALK GERNEGROB *LE PIQUE-NIQUE*

NINO MIER GALLERY BRUSSELS | RUE ERNEST ALLARD 25 & 41 | MAY 26 - JULY 20, 2023

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Falk Gernegroß
Le pique-nique
Brussels | Allard 41
May 26 - July 20, 2023

Nino Mier Gallery is pleased to present *Le pique-nique*, an exhibition of paintings by German artist Falk Gernegroß. The artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery, *Le pique-nique* features fifteen new works, offering a panoramic view of the artist's approach to painting – from sultry absurdism to irreverent eroticism, renaissance figuration to Playboy pin-ups, close-cropped anatomy to full-scale genre scenes. The exhibition opens on May 26th and will remain on view through July 15, 2023.

Gernegroß paints teasingly, most often representing his subjects out of context against monochromatic backdrops. Despite the artist's cropping techniques, each figure has a strong sense of individuality and character cultivated both by what is represented within the composition and what is strategically obfuscated from it. What the works withhold, precede, and wink at is their point; synecdochally or overtly, Gernegroß's work invades otherwise chaste white-cube environments, disarming taboo and disregarding modesty and privacy.

At once, Gernegroß reprises Rococo *joi de vivre*, mobilizes YBA 'sensationism,' rephrases magazine-cover aesthetics, and asserts characteristic Leipzig school objective-figurative composition. In the title work, three subjects rest languidly on the shores of a peaceful beach. The vision of excess and repose recalls Bruegel's *The Land of Cockaigne*, though the comedy of Bruegel's indictment of sloth and gluttony is here a forthright reverie. The coterie of secondary narrative elements – the dog breaking the fourth wall, the forgotten picnic debris, a run-away hard boiled egg – offers a density of symbols equivalent to that of 16th century history and genre paintings. Proudly, Gernegroß bears the torch of the Renaissance. By Raphael and Botticelli's example, he paints in candied, buoyant tempera and deploys line in appreciation of classical, humanist realism. His figures are sculptural, marble-finished, tracking aesthetic ideals from antiquity through the early 2000s, when the artist was beginning his career in a stone work studio.

The paintings on view proffer convincing fantasies of happiness, sex, and self-possession within and without the canvas. They heat the air around them. Voyeurs are welcomed enthusiastically; *Le pique-nique*'s petite furry white mascot, a symbol so often deployed in Baroque and Renaissance art, growls – or grins – at the foot of the painting. Gernegroß paints to flush cheeks, embarrass the modest, and call modern sexuality to the fore. Gaze and imagination flirt, silently and inescapably, with the works' protagonists; so seductive are they and the tensions they inspire, viewer-voyeurs stand little chance at leaving the fantasy they create upon exiting the gallery.

Falk Gernegroß (b. 1973, Marienberg, DE; lives and works in Leipzig, DE) studied at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig under Arno Rink and Neo Rauch. He has exhibited at M+B, Los Angeles, CA, US; Nassima Landau Foundation in Tel Aviv, IL; and at Galerie Kleindienst, Leipzig, DE.



Le pique-nique | 2023 | Acrylic and oil on canvas | 78 3/4 x 98 3/8 in, 200 x 250 cm | (FGE23.006)

Giantess II | 2023 | Acrylic and oil on canvas | 78 3/4 x 55 1/8 in, 200 x 140 cm | (FGE23.007)



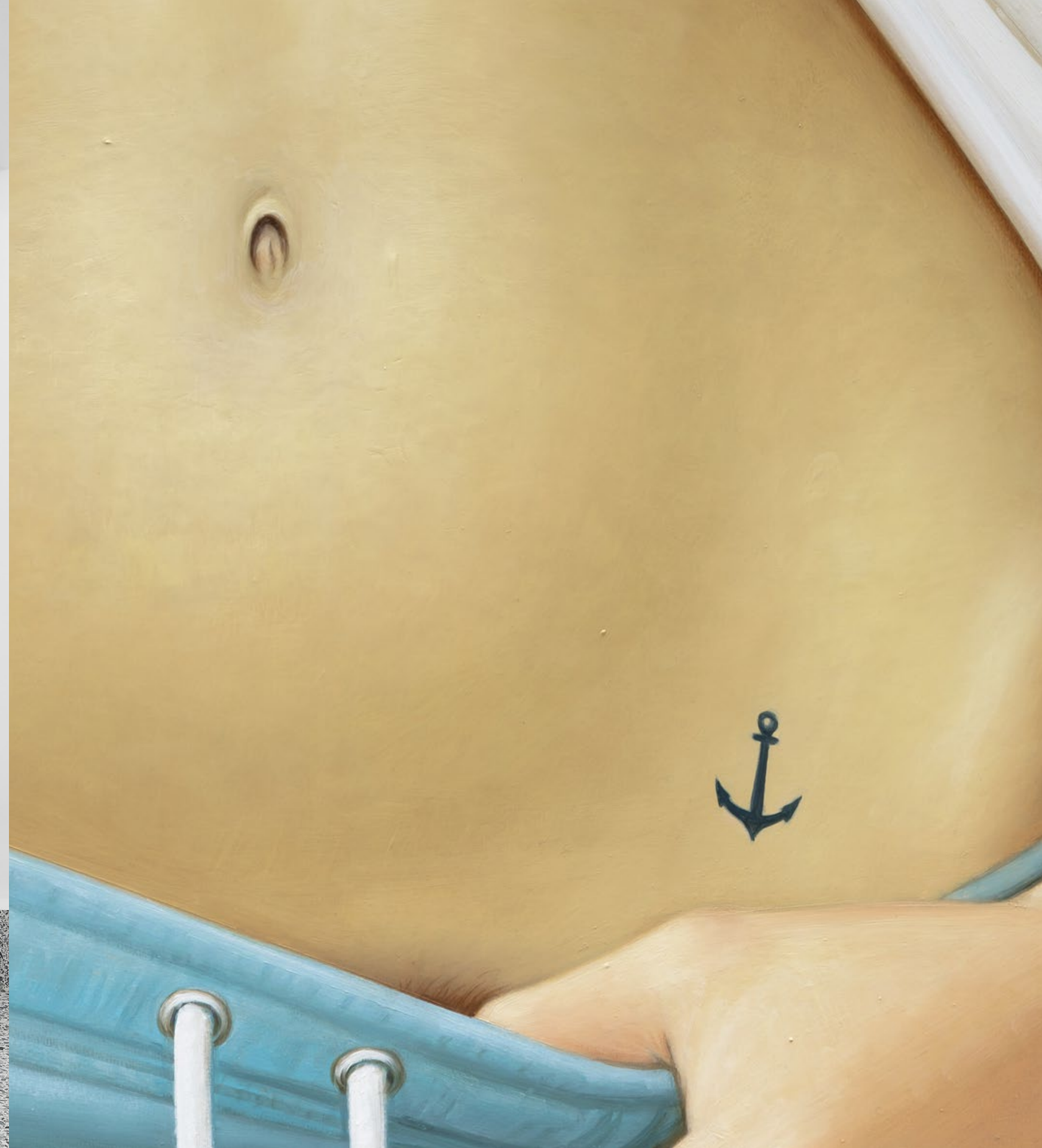


Open window | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in, 50 x 70 cm | (FGE23.017)



Spots | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 19 3/4 x 15 3/4 in, 50 x 40 cm | (FGE23.019)

Anchor | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 27 1/2 x 19 3/4 in, 70 x 50 cm | (FGE23.014)





Portrait of a Young Woman | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 27 1/2 x 19 3/4 in, 70 x 50 cm | (FGE23.015)



Windstill | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 27 1/2 x 19 3/4 in, 70 x 50 cm | (FGE23.016)

An apple a day | 2023 | Acrylic and oil on canvas | 78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm | (FGE23.009)





Hungry | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in, 80 x 60 cm | (FGE23.013)



Giantess I | 2023 | Acrylic and oil on canvas | 78 3/4 x 55 1/8 in, 200 x 140 cm | (FGE23.008)





LEFT: *That Smile* | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 19 3/4 x 15 3/4 in, 50 x 40 cm | (FGE23.020)
RIGHT: *Unveiling* | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 19 3/4 x 15 3/4 in, 50 x 40 cm | (FGE23.018)





Angry blonde | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in, 80 x 60 cm | (FGE23.010)



On the high Seas I 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in, 80 x 60 cm | (FGE23.012)



Back to nature | 2023 | Mixed media on MDF | 23 5/8 x 31 1/2 in, 60 x 80 cm | (FGE23.011)



FALK GERNEGROSS

Born 1973, Marienberg, DE
Lives and works in Leipzig, DE

EDUCATION

2008 Diploma in Painting and Graphic at the Academy of Visual Arts (under Prof. Neo Rauch), Leipzig, DE
2005-08 Studies in the class of Prof. Neo Rauch
2003-05 Studies in the class of Prof. Arno Rink
2001-08 Studies of painting and graphic at the Academy of Visual Arts, Leipzig, DE
1994-97 Apprenticeship as stone sculptor, Leipzig, DE

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Le pique-nique*, Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, BE
2022 *Fleur de Sel*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
Connected, M+B Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
2018 *Morning Glory*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2014 *Twist*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2012 *Short Stories*, Ornis A. Gallery, Utrecht, NL
2011 *Miss Wonderbar*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2010 *Painting*, Schwind Gallery, Frankfurt/Main, DE
2008 *Ping-Pong*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2006 *Delicatessen*, Hobbyshop Gallery, Munich, DE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 *High Voltage III*, NassimaLandau Foundation, Tel Aviv, IL
Hartwig Gallery, Sellin, DE
2021 *NEW – from the studios*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2020 *NEW*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2019 *Leipzig Connection*, HDLU, Zagreb, HR
... featuring Arno Rink, Kleindienst Gallery, Art Cologne, DE
2018 *New Horizons in Painting III*, Frissiras Museum, Athen, GR
Münchener Salon, Munich, DE
2017 *Four Views*, Connex Trias, Leipzig, DE
2016 *Immer und ewig*. 23th Leipzig Annual Exhibition, Leipzig, DE
2015 *Etage*, Leuenroth Gallery, Frankfurt/Main, DE

2014 *Sommerblond*, Leuenroth Gallery, Frankfurt/Main, DE
Saxonia Paper II, Sparkasse Art Gallery, Leipzig, DE
Man, become essential!, Art Association FAK, Zwickau, DE
BGL#1, Kleindienst Gallery Projektraum, Bergisch Gladbach, DE
New pictorial worlds from Leipzig, Heike Moras Art, London, UK
2013 *Painting*, Gallery at Ratswall, Bitterfeld/Wolfen, DE
Pitbull Butterfly, Leuenroth Gallery, Frankfurt/Main, DE
Un été spectaculaire, Ornis A. Gallery, Utrecht, NL
The Naked Truth, Sorry we're closed, Art Brussels, BE
2012 *Unterwegs*, 19th Leipzig Annual Exhibition, Leipzig, DE
Cupid and Psyche, Raum Hellrot, Halle/Saale, DE
2011 *Convoy Leipzig*, Csikász Gallery, Veszprem, HU
Convoy Leipzig, Biksady Gallery, Budapest, HU
After the Goldrush, Speyer Art Association, Speyer, DE
2010 *Hart und Spitz*, Gallery at Ratswall, Bitterfeld/Wolfen, DE
Sichtbar durch, Raum Hellrot, Halle/Saale, DE
2009 *Realism uit Leipzig*, Drents Museum, Assen, NL
2008 *Drawcula*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2006 *Zweidimensionale*, Sparkasse Art Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2004 *Young Art 9*, Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
Leipzig New School, Essenheim Art Association, Essenheim, DE

PUBLICATIONS

2023 Falk Gernegross - *Fleur de Sel*, (catalogue), Lubok Verlag, Leipzig, DE
2019 PRINT Publication, Issue 4 (C. Simmonds & F. Burns), London, GB
2018 Falk Gernegross - *Morning Glory*, (catalogue), Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE
2015 Hot and Cool, Issue 9 (A. Goddard & T. Sion), London, GB
2012 Falk Gernegross - *Short Stories*, (catalogue), Ornis A. Gallery, Utrecht, NL
2011 *Convoy Leipzig*, (catalogue), Biksady Gallery, Budapest, HU
2009 *Realism uit Leipzig*, (catalogue), Drents Museum, Assen, NL
2008 Falk Gernegross - *ping pong*, (catalogue), Kleindienst Gallery, Leipzig, DE

