

Songs from Liquid Days

Ahmad Siyar Qasimi

GALLERI
TOM
CHRISTOFFERSEN

PRESS RELEASE

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Duration: 16.9. – 7.10. 2017

Ron: What did you see in that park?

Thomas: Nothing... Ron.

(Last two lines in Michelangelo Antonioni's movie 'Blow-Up')

Ahmad Siyar Qasimi's figurative paintings and drawings are based on imagery taken from the media. Photographical images reproduced in print or video stills and digital pictures printed from the computer. They are taken from news papers, magazines, news broadcasts and films etc.

Qasimi is just as interested in what we do not see as what we do, and what we think we do in the case where the gaze tries to compensate for lack of visual information: The loss of visual information taking place in the translation process from one medium to another. In his paintings and drawings, we are presented to, often more than once, technologically filtered pictures. This is a continuous theme in the work of Qasimi. He is occupied with how our reality is transformed by the technological medias and with the blurred line between truth and fiction in the media created reality. At the same time, the loss of information taking place in the translation gives Qasimi the freedom to focus on the painterly or graphical potential of the pictures.

Qasimi reports what he sees. What he does not see, is not added to the picture. And what is unknown remains in the unknown. This faithfulness in the translation from motive to painting or drawing stresses the theme.

At some point in the painting process Qasimi imitates the technology which has brought forth his imagery to begin with. The imageries are not coincidental. They are carefully chosen not only based on their painterly or graphical possibilities but also on their potential for being able to transform from the closed local stories to open universal narratives. A transformation which among others finds place through repeated filtrations of the images and the thereof following loss of visual information simplifying the images and stressing their abstract character blurring or fully removing that sort of distracting details which removes focus from the overall to the specific."

- Text by artist Peter Land

Ahmad Siyar Quasimi (1986) took his MFA from The Royal Danish Academy of Art in 2014. He has exhibited at Kunsthal – ved siden af, Svendborg, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, and last year he had his first solo exhibition *Lines of Flight* at Galleri Tom Christoffersen. From October 2017 he is exhibiting at The JCE-Biennale, an exhibition which during two years travels to seven different exhibition venues in Europe.