

Dearly Beloved Dan Schein & Anna Ilsley

PRESS RELEASE

Opening: Friday 20.09. 2019 5-7 pm

Duration: 20.09. – 12.10. 2019

For the exhibition *Dearly Beloved* Dan Schein has invited the artist Anna Ilsley to co-exhibit. The two artists' practices are presented side by side in dialogue with each other at an exhibition devoted to the sensual and picturesque qualities of painting. Both artists have their starting points in a world of figures where logical laws and ordinary abstinence are dismissed and instead a universe of character types who let themselves devour into nature, sex, each other and themselves is unfolded.

Where Schein's well-known expressive and brutal brush strokes invite to a world of absurdities, mystical and mythical scenes, Ilsley unites the sensitive transparent painting with female sexuality. The naked woman is an art historical archaical motive which until few centuries ago exclusively was pictured by (and for) the male gaze. In this context, female sexuality has been both a curiosity and a topic for debate and shame. Ilsley re-tells and re-interprets the naked female body where the male gaze is rejected in favour of Ilsley's own. The result is a kind and humoristic treatment of female sexuality.

Same love and humour are to be found in the paintings of Schein who also presents his figures with an energy and an easy forbearance.

Dearly Beloved is an exhibition where the painting with its narrative strength investigates and treats those aspects of lived life that are not necessarily always on public view but nonetheless are an important part of humanity itself.

Dan Schein (1985 US/ZA) graduated in 2011 from Purchase College SUNY in New York and Tyler School of Art, Temple University in Philadelphia. He has had exhibitions at Marin Gardens, New York; Mike Weiss Gallery, New York; Munkeruphus, Hornbæk; Invisible Exports, New York; Ober Gallery, Kent and Galleri Brandstrup, Oslo among others. *Dearly Beloved* is his fifth exhibition at Galleri Tom Christoffersen.

Anna Ilsley (1982 UK) holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Art Painting from Brighton University and is postgraduate in drawing at Royal Drawing School in London. Ilsley has exhibited at Rose Lipman Gallery, London; Field Projects Gallery, New York and Kristin Hjellegjerde, London among others. Ilsley's works are represented at British School at Athens, Athens and Beijing Capital Museum, Beijing. Until 2020 she is artist in residence at Newnham College, University of Cambridge.