

## Everywhere everyone's Watching

Ahmad Siyar Qasimi

24.5 – 22.6 2024

Ahmad Siyar Qasimi's paintings and drawings quiver in their simultaneously recognizable and estranged motifs. With a meticulous and precise technique, Ahmad Siyar Qasimi places brushstrokes of oil paint on the canvas. By painting with one color at a time and often layering complementary colors on each other, the artist creates a physical texture in the picture surface. He achieves the same effect in his drawings, where the black oil stick creates painterly qualities on the white paper.

With a clear foundation in the motifs and allegories of art history, Ahmad Siyar Qasimi paints in the interaction between the undeniably beautiful and the indefinably uncomfortable. At the exhibition *Everywhere everyone's Watching*, the nocturnal darkness seems to vibrate. In several of the works, a human presence is subtly implied with a flaming bonfire on a lake shore, a wolf's illuminated glance in the scrub, or the headlights of an approaching vehicle. Two black silhouettes in front of a wall of forest. Often, the motivic starting points are found photographs from the mass media news streams but with Ahmad Siyar Qasimi, the motifs are detached from their origins. They generate new connections in interchangeably dissolved and magnificent landscapes. The hidden drama runs as if in an undercurrent, and the motifs never reveal their actual narratives. Instead, they are nourished by their ambiguous expression, allowing the indeterminate images to live in the here and now, removed from their original contexts and transformed into the sensuous and present painting.

**Ahmad Siyar Qasimi** (1986, DK) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2014. Ahmad Siyar Qasimi has exhibited at institutions such as the Arken Museum for Contemporary Art, Trapholt Museum of Art and Design, Willumsen's Museum, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, and Kunstbygningen Filsoffen. He is represented in the collections of the Trapholt Museum of Art and Design and the National Arts Foundation. From 2017-2019, he represented Denmark at the JCE Biennale, in 2021, he received the Remmen Foundation Art Award, and in 2024 he was assigned The New Carlsberg Foundation's Artist Grant.