



Friedrich Kunath
Coming Home Was As Beautiful As Going Away

26 March – 30 July 2023

Opening: 25 March 2023, 6 – 9 pm

Maschinenhaus M2

Curator: Magdalena Mai

Friedrich Kunath's artistic work is a melancholic, humorous remix of elements of German Romanticism and contemporary pop culture. In his conceptual paintings and drawings, installations, objects, as well as works in photography and film, he combines classic subjects such as interiors and landscapes with East German television, Hollywood kitsch, advertising slogans, and pop music to create shrewd reflections.

Kunath appeals to universal feelings, only to then create distance with exaggerated alterations and irony. Where on the one hand the idyll appears as an expansive landscape, horizon, or palm beach, an ironic break reliably takes place through linguistic or symbolic expressions, which lends presence to both the transience and the futility of a search for fulfilment.

The exhibition *Coming Home Was As Beautiful As Going Away* ties in with various stations in the artist's life between East Germany and the western extreme of California. It revolves around questions about distant wanderings and arrival, revealing moments of disorientation as well as reorientation. A central work is the installation *All Your Fears Trapped Inside* (2019 – 2023), a diorama of a private room that stands firm against the voyeuristic gaze as a time capsule, cabinet of curiosities, and compendium of things.

10 May 2023, 7 pm

Tour of the exhibition with curator Magdalena Mai

In German

Free admission

Further information: kindl-berlin.com/discursive-programme

Friedrich Kunath (*1974 in Karl-Marx-Stadt, lives in Los Angeles and Munich) was awarded the Sprengel Prize for Fine Arts by the Niedersächsische Sparkassenstiftung in 2012. Selected solo exhibitions: CAC Málaga (2023); Kunstsammlung Jena (2021); Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf (2016); Kunsthalle Bremerhaven (2014); Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry – le Crédac, Ivry-Sur-Seine (2014); White Cube, Hong Kong (2014); Sprengel Museum, Hannover (2012); Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2011); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2010); Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (2009).

Selected group exhibitions: Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2019); Gana Art Center, Seoul (2019); CFHILL, Stockholm (2017); Vancouver Art Gallery (2016); Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2015); Centre des Monuments Nationaux, La Conciergerie, Paris (2013); Tate Britain, London (2011); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2011); Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2011); Seattle Art Museum (2010); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2010).

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

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