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Beyond Good and Evil („JENSEITS VON GUT UND BÖSE“)



The works of Edward Lightner on nuclear imagery

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Beyond Good and Evil („JENSEITS VON GUT UND BÖSE“)

Of all the exhibitions, this group show seems to be the most interesting, exciting and artistically successful one to this day. The reference in all the exhibited artworks is obvious: the immediate relation to the excesses of violence, wars and self-inflicted disasters which mankind is currently suffering.

All four artists had to suffer in their own way and express their own suffering and co-suffering experience which is shown in their different ways of artistic representation. **Abdulhamid Abdalla** from Syria, **Edward Lightner** from the United States, **Reinhard Stammer** and **Michael Imhof** from Germany witness their and our desire for a better World; the artists cannot be more different, and yet united by their works exhibited at Pashmin Art Gallery.

Images of nuclear explosions are a recurring motif for the artist Edward Lightner, who was born and raised in California. From the 1980's, he was drawn to context of atmospheric testing images, but for the most part, he was far more interested in the "look" itself. During the 90s and early 2000s, his focus shifted and he concentrated more on the AIDS crisis. Later, he turned back to the nuclear explosions. Edward Lightner's images are moved by the sheer power and the dark aesthetics of exploding nuclear bombs. Hundreds of underground explosions changed the Nevada desert and other areas. He worked up a method to abstract each explosion crater and reproduce it in the form of a mandala (the titles of the images refer to the individual tests), which allows him to focus on the creation of objects that are at the same time beautiful to look at but still show the dark origins of each image.

On the other side of the exhibition rooms there are much larger and massive paintings of Reinhard Stammer. His preferred color is dark red, which represents fire and flame, but also symbolizes the uproar, for blood and battle. The pictures are mostly stormy, dramatic, passionate. He created his artistic work in a short time but it is still characterized by life, sickness and pain. He mostly focuses on inner violence and suffering in the soul.

Disease, suffering and pain are also the main points in the pictures of Dr. Michael Imhof who is a physician and author. He is a full time surgeon and also writes scientific and science-critical books about ethical issues of modern medicine. A human heart turns into a ticking clock or possibly a bomb, a time bomb ticking. He wants to ask questions. But grief and death are not celebrating triumphs in his paintings, they are not invincible, they are even medically curable.

Abdulhamid Abdalla comes from Syria, has fled to Germany in 2003 and since then he has worked as a self-employed artist who creates sculptures and objects made of wood, iron and other metals. His paintings of women are not portraits associated with a particular person; they are incarnations of the eternal feminine. Their veiled, transfigured, unknowable faces are marked by sorrow, suffering and pain.

Through this exhibition Pashmin Art Gallery has endeavored to go beyond good and evil as Nietzsche aptly wrote in maxim 153 of his book: "Was aus Liebe gethan wird, geschieht immer jenseits von Gut und Böse" [Whatever is done from love always occurs beyond good and evil].

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