

Sebastian Gordin - *The Sound of an Engine Falling*

Yuxiao Ran - *Fable Boulevard*



Sebastian Gordin, *Coleccion Costello*, 2024

5th April 2024 – 6th May 2024

Opening reception: Thursday 4th of April 2024 6.30-8.30pm

Gallery rosenfeld is delighted to present a duo exhibition featuring the Argentinian artist Sebastian Gordin and the Chinese artist Yuxiao Ran.

Gordin's second solo exhibition in the gallery will dig deeply into his personal memory.

The poet Vanna Andreini has written very eloquently and movingly about the artist's new body of works.

Gordin asks the question, 'Can the sounds that pierced us be forgotten, like we forget the words of a foreign language? Or could it be that sounds resurface the way smells do, suddenly, when passing by something or someone? If they are not forgotten, what happens to them?'

In this exhibition, Sebastian Gordin searches for the sounds that constitute him, that gave his life colour and depth. He dives into the sea of his memory, seeking out the songs he loved, the lyrics that accompanied him, and brings them back up to the surface: He presents them with a support on which to float, an image to which those words are linked- whether by chance or by the unfathomable movements in the stream of memory.

In 'The Noise of a Falling Engine', we encounter a series of album covers made of wood and stained veneers. Sebastian Gordin delights us not only with the enigma that connects words to images, but also with the choice of colours that make up the 'record'. This new exhibition by the Argentinian artist does not, however, consist only of the resurfacing of the sounds that make up his flesh, but also of a *mise en abyme* with another group of art works.

Our body is our home and it is filled with echoes. What happens to us, then, when fear amplifies them? The threatened house loses ground and from our heaven- these things that represent our comforts - , pieces begin to fall; and faced with the failure of reality's engine, a nest is improvised with that which is unique to our humanity: Culture..' - Vanna Andreini



Yuxiao Ran, *Euphemistic Dead End*, 2023

In a very different way and with equally different intentions, the works of the Chinese artist Yuxiao Ran also draw on memory. At first impact, what strikes the viewer is the strong parentage to surrealism: However, in reality, what primarily interests the artist is exploring the limitations of pictorial language when seen in a contemporary context. Ran creates complex still-lives and landscapes which purposefully contain mundane imagery which can be found in multicultural contexts. However, the highly unusual juxtaposition of the images forces people to look at these familiar images with fresh eyes. He explains perfectly his intent: 'by extracting the pictorial language from their original contexts, I want to use a playful way to challenge, question, and subvert our habitual reading of images and symbols. Undoubtedly, this way of creation produces chaos and a lack of logical sense, but for me, this chaos is just the kind of realism that I experience in the contemporary social environment (s)'. The artist can often present a work which, within it, contains different styles of painting. This can really throw the viewer yet his intent is very coherent with his artistic philosophy. 'Human nature dictates that we tend to favour pattern over randomness, which ensures the order we experience in our daily lives. Won't it be extremely disappointing and dull if painting also has to submit to this inertia of ours?' His strikingly original narrative inexorably draws us in. Cartoon characters used in unusual contexts like the over life-size bear who, from his left hand is holding a road sign, a strange headless figure dressed in white, a plane which disappears into a painting hanging on the wall, some ancient stones assembled as if they were remnants from Stonehenge whilst another rectangular shape juts out from the sky and black geometrical shapes which invade the picture plane at odd angles are a few of the images which give the paintings their very particular surreal quality. The title of the exhibition 'Fable Boulevard' demonstrates unequivocally that Ran is a story-teller as is Gordin. Both are weavers of visual stories which, as much as great written stories, enable us both to marvel at human creativity whilst also allowing us to become intertwined in a creative dialogue with the product of both these artists' extraordinary fertile imaginations.