

Yassine Balbzioui - PARADE
Opening: January 26, 2012 at 7 pm
GALERIE LISTROS
Kurfürstenstraße 33, 10785 Berlin

Opening hours: Tue thru Sa 10 am – 7 pm
Thur: Art and Cocktailbar until 2 am

From 26th of January to 23rd of February 2012 GALERIE LISTROS, Berlin presents the exhibition “PARADE“ by Maroccon artist Yassine Balbzioui. “PARADE“ launches the exhibition series „von dort bis hier – Artistic Reflections of translocal Autobiographies“, which takes place from January 2012 to April 2013 at GALERIE LISTROS.

Within the framework of the exhibition series “von dort bis hier“, artists from the African Diaspora in Germany deal with their biographical origins. Through autobiographical presentation and reflection a space for communication and interaction is opened, in which audiences are inspired by new views and perceptions.

To Moroccan artist Yassine Balbzioui an art exhibition is similar to a (carnival) parade in the street: the artist parades his works in front of an audience. In a parade carnival groups or beauty queens present themselves to the spectators. But at the same time they hide their true self. By being dressed up and/or wearing masks they play a role and they can also disappear within the group they are a part of.

This also applies to the figures in Balbzioui’s works. Their faces are hidden by plastic bags, brush strokes, their own hands or animal like masks. With the absence of a human face Balbzioui’s works become mirrors – as the spectator does not look into a face he or she has to fall back on her/himself to be reflected. His works therefore express a dialectic between “showing” and “not showing” and force the audience to decide on how to interpret what they see and to question their own self-presentation. The disguises of Balbzioui’s figures often seem grotesque or absurd – but for the artists the comical is a way to detach oneself from the “common body”.

What defines Balbzioui’s biography is being here, leaving and returning. In his works he deals with the impressions and experiences of his numerous travels. The artist regards himself as nomad who does not like to stay at one place for more than six months. He needs both being in close touch with the environment he is in and new inspirations by moving to another location.

The work series Yassine Balbzioui is presenting in the exhibition PARADE are not necessarily telling stories of his travels or his life. The artist rather wants the audience to come up with their own stories and interpretations when they see his works. He offers the ingredients that make up a story but he does not put them together.

For more information and press pictures:
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