

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster berlin

TOTAL RECALL – Learn the Unlearning
curated by Fousieh Mobayen

Ellen Antico
Wolfgang Günther
Alice Morey
Victor Payares

Opening Friday, 11 March 2022, 6 – 9 PM
Exhibition 11 March – 2 April 2022

The order of the world is based on theories and science that are influenced by history, archeology, philosophy, and various other information systems of humanity.

How we utilize information to decode these systems is very individual, connected to the way we were socialized, and shaped by our life experiences and respective knowledge.

We develop different realities, identities and follow cultural habits that define our being. When views collide or dissonance is created, these situations become about defending one's own view, at which point a process is triggered within ourselves that causes irritation and disengagement from the root of our being – is this thinking a collectively learned ritualized pattern or a human truth? The question is, how can we overcome different realities trying to understand the other side without having to discard ourselves?

This group show is an attempt to see different perspectives of the world order. Whether it's a natural, cognitive, humanistic or more cultural standpoint, there are different ways to understand humanity and our world.

TOTAL RECALL – Learn the Unlearning is intended to bring new perspectives to given situations that were previously taken for granted or have never been questioned before. To see without bias and perhaps to consider that there are mystics and powers unbeknownst to us.

With each work, the artists show what is at the center of their work and their world, and what moves them personally as painters, but also as people and private individuals.

— Fousieh Mobayen

Ellen Antico's work is inspired by Renaissance paintings and the work of Rubens; her motives primarily celebrate the female body in all shapes and sizes: Large fleshy figures, entwined with one another, confident with their body and sexuality. Painted with oil and charcoal on canvas, these intimate moments capture the climax of physical and emotional connection between the subjects. The interaction of the creatures in strong dynamic next to each other mirrors our deepest wishes and longings. Even when the subject seems to be a forgotten one, Ellen Antico's images act in a contemporary moment following no rules of straight lines as they are dedicated to the most human element – the body.

Ellen Antico (b. 1989 in Sydney, Australia, lives in Berlin) completed her art studies in 2019 at the University of the Art London, UK. Her work has been shown at Every Woman Biennial London, UK, and Weserhalle Berlin, among others.

As a contemporary painter, **Wolfgang Günther** deals with his medium in an experimental way. He creates pictorial spaces on the canvas that are based on virtual dream worlds or video games.

In terms of content and form, his paintings offer an almost inexhaustible number of possible associations. Mythical creatures, plants, cells, loops, knots, structures pervade the pictorial events, which are based on obligatory perspectives, clear structures and a clear top-and-bottom constellation. The eye is continuously in motion when viewing the pictures, and is led from one imaginary situation to another, from one imagined event to the next.

Time and space become obsolete. Günther creates this intense movement with a sheer exuberance of signs, a variety of materials and innumerable overworked layers, which recognizably overlap and shine through, conceal or reveal each other. Their visual and implemented secrets can be docked onto, but they can never be fully exposed. Text: *Kunstsammlungen Max Pechstein Museum, 2021*

Wolfgang Günther (*1990 in Munich, lives in Berlin) completed his master's degree at the HFBK Hamburg in 2021 with Prof. Werner Büttner. Previously, he studied at the HFK Bremen with Prof. Kathrin von Maltzahn in 2015 – 2018 and at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna with Prof. Erwin Bohatsch in 2018.

Günther was nominated for the Max Pechstein Förderpreis in 2021 and the Max-Ernst Stipendium in 2020. His paintings have been shown at the Kunstsammlung Zwickau, NWWK – Neuer Worpsswerder Kunstverein e.V., MOM ART SPACE Hamburg, Galerie am Schloß Brühl and Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven, among others.

Alice Morey's artworks explore biological and ecological entanglements. Her unprimed canvases are typically smeared, splattered, and stained with pigment mixed with yoghurt, merging probiotics with painting. Drawings of flora and fauna jostle for attention next to moments of abstractions. They trade on a tension between figuration and something more reticent. These works zoom in and out – the pictures contain their own logic, but Morey reminds us that ultimately art – despite its symbols and codes conceived and decoded by humans over thousands of years – remains as unknown as the world it inhabits. Text: George Vasey *Vitamin D3: Today's Best in Contemporary Drawing*, Phaidon

Alice Morey (b. 1986 in London, UK, lives in Berlin) studied at the Camberwell College of Arts London, UK, and the University of Brighton, UK, before completing her Masters at Chelsea College of Arts London, UK, in 2019. Her solo exhibition *One Thing Left to Try* will be on view at MEWO Kunsthalle Memmingen in 2022.

Her work has been presented at Lehmann + Silva in Porto, Portugal; The Ryder, London, UK; Wells Project London, UK; Tate Britain in collaboration with Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK; Tschechisches Zentrum Berlin; and Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, among others.

Morey is the founder and curator of an alternative collaborative art residency *Countdown Grabowsee* (Globe Gallery), which takes place each summer in an abandoned sanatorium north of Berlin. She often works in collaborations and is part of three active collectives: Portland (UK), Data_Blood (UK) and Puppetmaster (D). In 2019, she was artist-in-residence at Camden Arts Centre before completing a residency at the Academy of Visual Arts in Hong Kong. She has also developed a body of work at the VAADS Academy of Art in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Victor Payares' work explores ways of simulating recollection and visual discourse through the dissemination of painting and sculpture. His work is often bright coloured, picturing a surrealistic world built up by parts from a story that has been broken into different pieces. As if to portray a memory or a dream, he uses layers of different material, found objects, integrates sand and electrical cables. Architecture, observation, mapping and cartography are reappearing references in his work. Source: *RUNNING LATE – a conversation between Attilia Fattori Franchini and Victor Payares* – House of Egorn

Victor Payares (b. 1985 in Havana, Cuba, lives in Berlin) was a participant of the Berlin Program for Artists, Berlin from 2019 – 2021. Previously, he studied at the Royal College of Art, London, UK, in 2015 – 2017 in the Master's program and at Miami International University of Art & Design, Miami, USA, in 2003 – 2007 in the Bachelor's program.