

Richard Hawkins

11 September
- 2 October 2020

Richard Hawkins (*1961 in Mexia) moved out of Texas for art school in Los Angeles in 1986. Then, after a few years of writing experimental fiction, he began a career in art that would contain all of American culture in its erotic death grip.

As a painter, Hawkins often swims in different directions - mining art history, as he has over the past two decades, to create surrealist, tragicomic scenes of gay cruising zones and exotic hustler bars. He also mines literature for inspiration, character cameos, and excerpts of text inserted directly onto his canvases.

Hawkins new group of paintings for his 11th solo exhibition at Galerie Buchholz are brightly colored compositions that contain a constellation of subjects as varied as the celebrity hunk Nick Jonas, the boxer Canelo Alvarez, Justin Bieber, Adam Driver, but also "Death in Venice's" Gustav von Aschenbach as played by Dirk Bogarde or Alain Delon as Baron de Charlus from "Swann in love". Two of these paintings include snippets of poetry from the decadent Victorian writer Algernon Charles Swinburne.

These new works originate out of the mindset of collage, the medium that is central to Richard Hawkins entire artists practice, but which is here emphatically transformed into painting. Hawkins' subjects seem to dissolve in glowing, even fluorescent colors, and alongside his ensemble of reoccurring characters painterly references appear: butterflies by Odilon Redon, a dried sunflower and secreting opium bulbs, a head by John Graham, abstract shapes by Joan Miro, and translucent outlines by Francis Picabia.

A new artist book by Richard Hawkins has just been published by Fridericianum, Kassel on the occasion of their Forrest Bess exhibition (co-published with Koenig Books). Hawkins is also featured in the forthcoming anthology The Age of Collage Vol. 3, published by Gestalten, Berlin. Galerie Buchholz would like to thank Christopher Bollen, whose writing on Richard Hawkins for Interview Magazine's Spring 2020 issue we borrowed from for this press release.

Extended opening hours during Gallery Weekend:

Friday, 11 September 10am-7pm

Saturday, 12 September 10am-7pm

Sunday, 13 September 10am-7pm