

PRESS RELEASE
02.07. – 02.10.2022
JOÃO GABRIEL
Almost Blue

PRESS PREVIEW:
Friday, 01 July 2022,
11 AM

OPENING AND SUMMER PARTY:
Friday, 01 July 2022,
7 PM



Untitled, 2022, oil on canvas, 200 x 160 cm

With *Almost Blue*, Kunstverein Braunschweig presents João Gabriel's (*1992 in Leiria, Portugal) first institutional solo exhibition in Germany. João Gabriel's works are a sensuous and mysterious game of hide and seek. Despite their fast, vivid brushstrokes, sparse edges and contouring, they offer wholly realistic manifestations of bodies and landscapes. As soon as one grasps the image, it disappears. Gabriel's works bear witness to tenderness and tranquility, showing bodies surrendering to desire without guilt or prejudice.



Much of the artist's practice is inspired by porn films from the "queer underground" of the 70s and 80s, which were produced for an invisible audience.

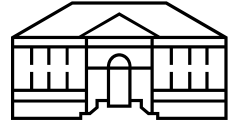
Hence, the real protagonists of the paintings are the sensual affection and the furtive gaze of an observer. João Gabriel's works bear witness to tenderness and tranquillity, they show bodies surrendering to their desire without guilt or prejudice. His painterly inspiration is also inspired by the masters of the Baroque. Thus, the virtuoso play of light and shadow in his works also reflects the drama in man.

João Gabriel's paintings are created by an anachronistic trick: he rewinds digitised VHS films to a scene of his choice, pauses the video and transfers the frozen images to the canvas using digital tools. The landscapes and spaces depicted in this way, but above all the coexistence of bodies, are moments captured in paint that mix the fictional and the real, the present and the memory. His paintings and pictorial investigations are based on an abstracted recourse to these fictional images and draw on a deep chromatic scale. The poetics of colour, the pausing of time and the affection of bodies for each other can be discovered in his sensual paintings.

SHORT BIO

João Gabriel (born 1992 in Leiria, Portugal) currently lives in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal. He graduated in Fine Arts from the College of Fine Arts and Design in Caldas da Rainha in 2016. He has been included in various exhibitions, including *A Place Only We Know*, The RYDER Madrid, 2021, *O lume dos olhos, a luzir no escuro*, Lehmann + Silva Gallery, Porto, 2019, *Don't you remember why we came here for?*, The RYDER London, 2019, *De noite, todos os gatos*, Galeria do Teatro da Politécnica, Lisbon, 2019, *The Third Bank*, Coimbra Biennial of Contemporary Art, 2019, *A Permit for that Fire*, Galería Mascota, Mexico City, 2018. The artist was a laureate of the EDP Foundation New Artists Award in 2017.

Curators: Nuno de Brito Rocha und Benedikt Johannes Seerieder



GUEST ROOM

For each exhibition, artists are invited to use the former guest room of the Villa Salve Hospes to create a commentary on the main presentation. At João Gabriel's invitation, we are delighted to welcome filmmakers João Pedro Rodrigues and João Rui Guerra da Mata. Their work explores gender and human desire in all its guises – and disguises – reflecting the multifarious history of film, from classical genres to documentary and experimental film. Their films have premiered and won prizes at the world's foremost film festivals, including Cannes, Venice, Locarno, Toronto, and Berlin and are part of several film archives and permanent museum collections, namely the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Harvard Film Archive. In 2016, the Centre Pompidou in Paris honored Rodrigues and Guerra da Mata with a complete retrospective and installation exhibition

Public Program and Mediation

BRAUNSCHWEIG MUSEUM NIGHT

July 09, 2022, 7pm-12am

with curator's tour and guided tour about the architecture of Villa Salve Hospes.

CITY TOUR ON QUEER SOCIAL SPACES

August 10, 2022, 6pm

History and stories in Braunschweig in cooperation with Verein für Sexuelle Vielfalt Braunschweig e.V and Lorenz Weinberg (Freie Universität Berlin).

GUIDED TOUR FOR LGBTQI+

25.08. und 08.09.2022, 19 Uhr

Guided tour of the Almost Blue exhibition for people from the queer community in cooperation with the Verein für sexuelle Vielfalt Braunschweig e.V.



QUEER POETRY READING

September 22, 2022, 6pm

with Kevin Junk, Samantha Bohatsch and Ozan Zakariya Keskinliç

CURATOR'S TOUR

July 14 and August 18, 2022, 6pm

by Nuno de Brito de Rocha

August 04 and 25, 2022, 6pm

by Benedikt Johannes Seerieder

PUBLIC GUIDED TOUR

Thursdays 6pm + Sundays 3pm

free of charge

We inform about general conditions of the event on short term on our website: kunstvereinbraunschweig.de

All events will be held in German

Exhibition views will be available for you from 11 July in our press section on our website

kunstvereinbraunschweig.de/information/press/

Press- and PR

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Opening hours:

Tue – Fri 12 pm – 6 pm

Thu 12 pm – 8 pm

Sat, Sun 11 am – 6 pm



The exhibition *Almost Blue*,
by JOÃO GABRIEL is supported by:



Stiftung
Braunschweiger
Kulturbesitz



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Wissenschaft und Kultur

The Public Program and Mediation is supported by:

Öffentliche

The Kunstverein Braunschweig e.V. is supported by:



Stadt **Braunschweig**
Fachbereich Kultur und Wissenschaft