

HAND PLAY

Özgür Kar

Emalin offsite
24 Cork Street
11 – 15 October 2022

During Frieze week, Emalin is pleased to present *HAND PLAY*, two new multi-media sculptures by Özgür Kar (b. 1992 in Ankara, Turkey), offsite at 24 Cork Street. The site-specific installation can also be viewed at night between 11 and 15 October.

Two vertical screens flank the space, constructed of 4K TV sets stacked with industrial rigging, towering to 3.5 meters tall. The multi-media sculptures, *Death's Left Hand* and *Death's Right Hand* (2022) are a continuation of Kar's project *MACABRE* which configures exhibitions as theatre stages where animations locked in their screens assemble to perform as theatre actors. Meditative and disjointed, their logic feeds on contemporary anxieties of digital life. Steeping in existential dread and a lost child's confusion, their sharp lines are picked from 90s cartoons as well as *danse macabre* woodcuts, their feedbacking absurdity infused with Beckettian psychoanalysis and TikTok.

Beyond the historic reference of *danse macabre*, Kar prods the role theatre played in the way medieval societies dealt with grief and mortality: a medium of play-pretend accessing an otherwise repressed understanding of reality. In this site-specific iteration of the series, the figure of Death is scaled up and disembodied, appearing only as a pair of giant hands reaching from beyond the screen's rigid edge. Matching the height of viewers passing by, the hands mimic walking and kneeling almost in silence, accompanied sparsely with a score of echoing footsteps. Overpowering and supernatural in its position of control as a puppet master, Death enters stage not only as a character, but also as the performer – playing human.

LIST OF WORKS

Özgür Kar
Death's Right Hand, 2022
2-channel 4K video with sound
two 75" TVs, media players, TV mount, cables
duration: 5:00 min (looped)
335 × 95 × 70 cm
131⁷/₈ × 37³/₈ × 27¹/₂ inches

Özgür Kar
Death's Left Hand, 2022
2-channel 4K video with sound
two 75" TVs, media players, TV mount, cables
duration: 5:00 min (looped)
335 × 95 × 70 cm
131⁷/₈ × 37³/₈ × 27¹/₂ inches

Özgür Kar (b. 1992, Ankara, TR) lives and works in Amsterdam. He is a graduate of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Recent solo presentations include *At the end of the day*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2022); *STORAGE DRAMA*, Emalin, UK (2021); *MACABRE*, Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris, FR (2021); Kunstverein Gartenhaus, Vienna, AT (2021); *A Decade of Submission*, Édouard Montassut, Paris, FR (2020) and *A New Start*, UKS, Oslo, NO (2019). Kar's work has been included in group exhibitions at the 16th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, Lyon, FR (2022); Jeu de Paume, Paris, FR (2022); K.U.K. Kjøpmannsgata Ung Kunst, Trondheim, NO (2021); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR (2021); CAC Brétigny, FR (2020); Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL (2020); Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, NL (2018); and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2017).

Upcoming solo exhibitions include *Intermissions*, The Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL, US (2023).

EMALIN
1 Holywell Lane
London EC2A 3ET
www.emalin.co.uk