

Paul Soto

Aidan Koch
Wing Whistle's
April 2 - May 20, 2023
Los Angeles

Preview

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Wing Whistles
April 2 – May 20, 2023
Los Angeles

Paul Soto / Park View are proud to announce *Wing Whistles*, a solo exhibition with the Landers, California based artist Aidan Koch. This is the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery. *Wing Whistles* will open at the gallery with a public reception on Sunday, April 2 from 3 to 5pm, and will run through the spring until Saturday, May 20. Koch's exhibition features a new suite of drawings, animation, and sculpture.

In *Wing Whistles*, Aidan Koch engages with the inherent tension between a hazily known past, a precarious present, and an uncertain future. The eponymous effect – generated by startled doves as an alarm system, and meant to telegraph the presence of danger to others – serves as the show's operating metaphor: in a moment of ecological collapse can we at once feel free and heed a warning?

Large chalk pastels depict burning or charred hills, birds spiraling out of smoky skies, and the skeletal remains of plants killed by heat and drought. Yet the signs are ambiguous: creeping flowers bloom in the ragged margins, a buttery moon and throbbing sun preside, and faint rivulets still course through denuded landscapes. The works reference 2020's Apple Fire in the San Bernardino Mountains just west of Koch's home, worsening fire seasons in the Sierra Nevada, and the climbing temperatures of the Coloradan-Sonoran desert, where Koch assists in ecological field work.

In ancient Rome the auguries predicted the future through observing the flight and feeding patterns of birds. Similarly, in drawings and sculptures, Koch looks to doves – rich symbols, and a species she raises at her home in the Mojave desert – as clumsy messengers, tumbling to earth and perpetually bungling their haphazard nests, which sit atop broken chairs and inverted brooms. Somehow, by dint of sheer persistence, they are abundant.

Elsewhere, in a series of graphite, gouache, pastel, and watercolor drawings, Koch further plays with the ambiguous relationship between past, present, and future through the imagery of a three card Tarot spread. Like decks in the Surrealist tradition, her arcana are idiosyncratic: human figures stand in for celestial phenomenon, endangered species sit beside electrical transformers, and the mythopoetic dwells in the mundane, both freighted with meaning and interpretively unstable.

As Gramsci famously noted of a different epoch's crisis, "the old is dying and the new cannot be born." Koch's work suggests something similar. The scale and ubiquity of present catastrophes seems insurmountable. Yet there is a lively tension between hope and warning. An idyllic past can't return, but the worst may not manifest. Instead, as *Wing Whistles* seems to say, "what is not yet might still be."

–Nicholas McElroy

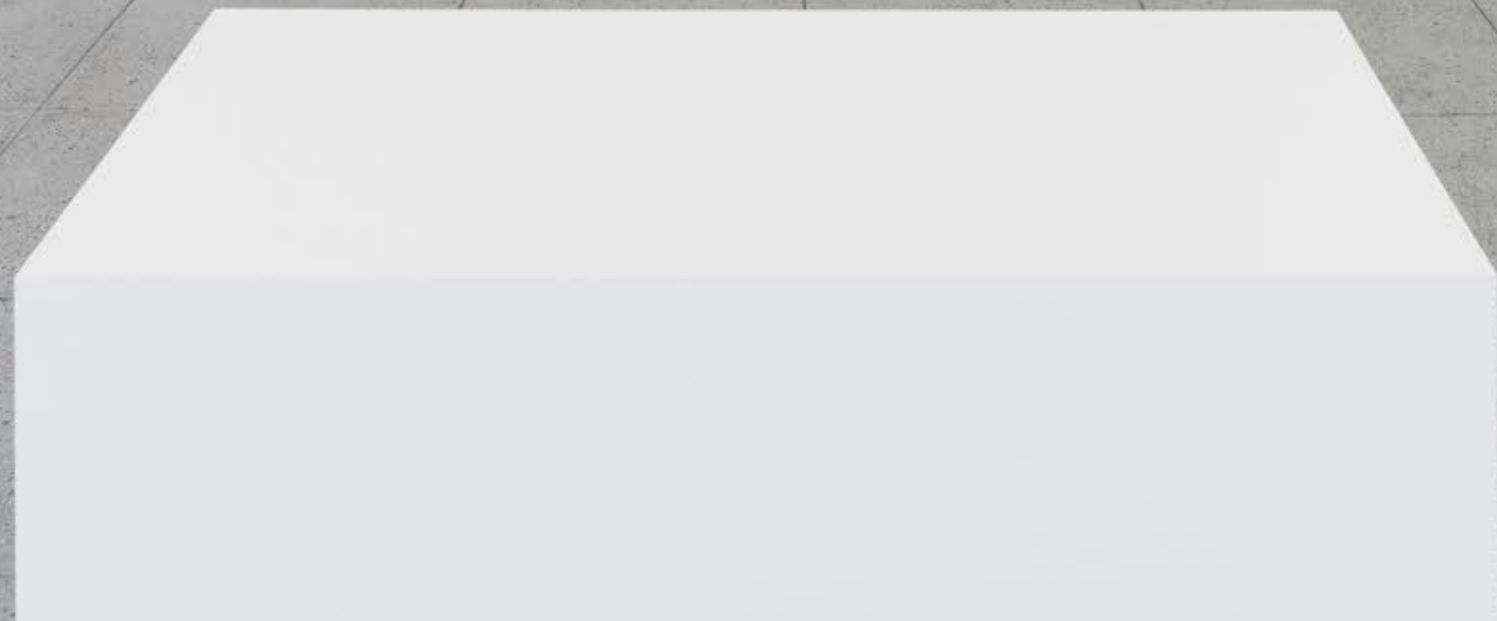
Aidan Koch (born in 1988 in Olympia, Washington) lives and works in Landers, California. She received an MFA in 2022 from Emily Carr University in Vancouver, British Columbia, and a BFA from Pacific NW College of Art, Portland, Oregon. Her works have been exhibited at Paul Soto, Los Angeles; Maison de Rendez-Vous, Brussels; 14a Gallery, Hamburg; Semiose Gallery, Paris; Naughton Gallery at Queens University, Belfast; Centro Colombo Americano, Bogota; South Bend Museum of Art, Indiana; and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, amongst other venues. Koch is the founder of the Institute for Interspecies Art and Relations (IFIAAR) and Environmental Comics, which foreground environmental activism.





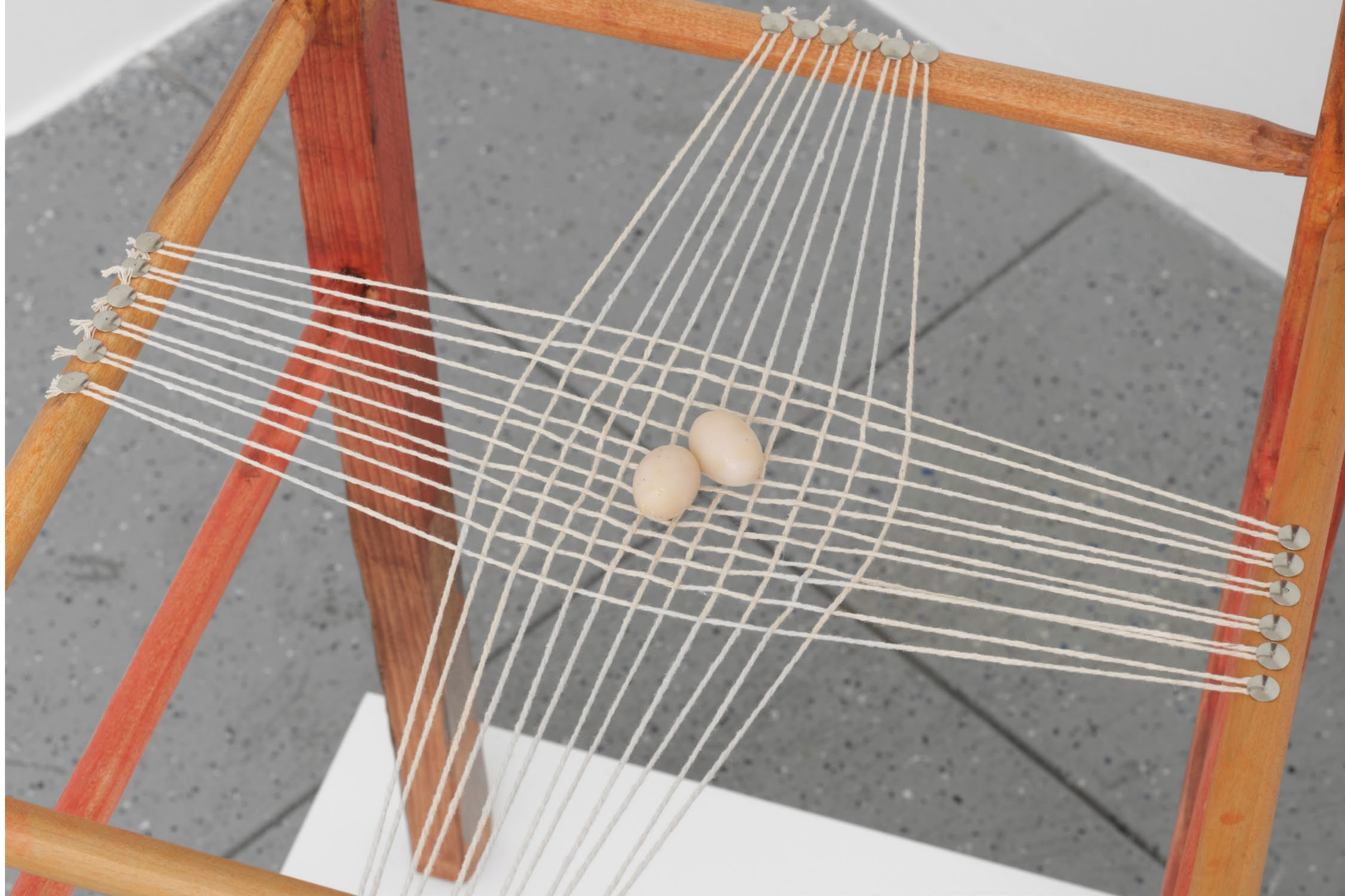




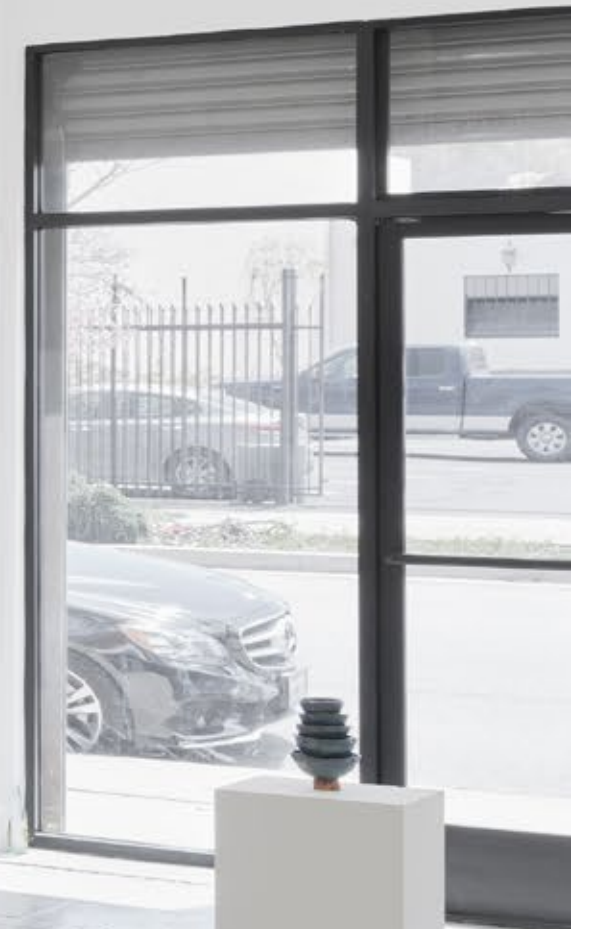




















Aidan Koch
Days of Red Sun I, 2023
gouache and pastel on paper
26 x 22 inches
66.04 x 55.88 cm
AK0051



Aidan Koch
Days of Red Sun II, 2023
gouache and pastel on paper
23 x 19 inches
58.42 x 48.26 cm
AK0053



Aidan Koch
Days of Red Sun III, 2023
gouache and pastel on paper
23 x 19 inches
58.42 x 48.26 cm
AK0053



Aidan Koch
Golden Trout Full Moon, 2023
pastel on paper
42 x 31 inches
106.68 x 78.74 cm
AK0049



Aidan Koch
San Gorgonio Tailpipe, 2023
pastel on paper
47 x 33 inches
119.38 x 83.82 cm
AK0048



I



II

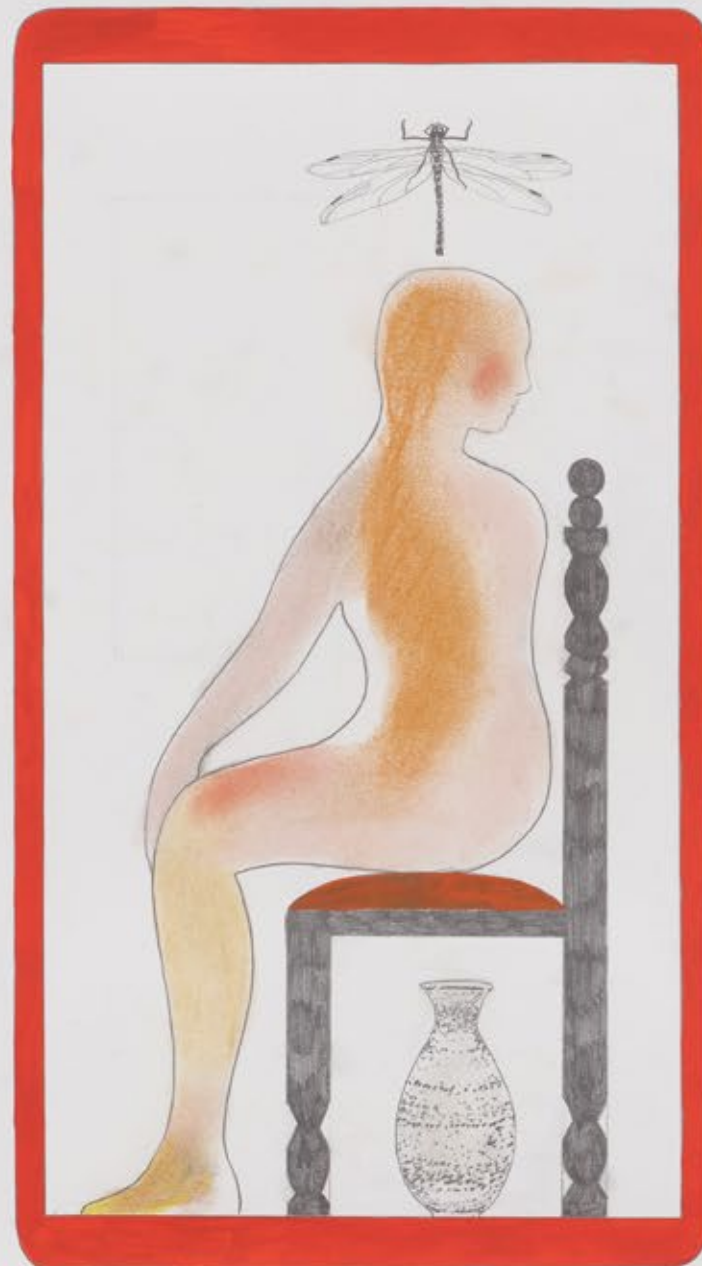


III

Aidan Koch
Three Card Spread
(Datura, Tower, Piper and Song-birds), 2023
graphite, gouache, watercolor and soft pastel on paper
30 x 22 inches
76.2 x 55.88 cm
AK0054



I

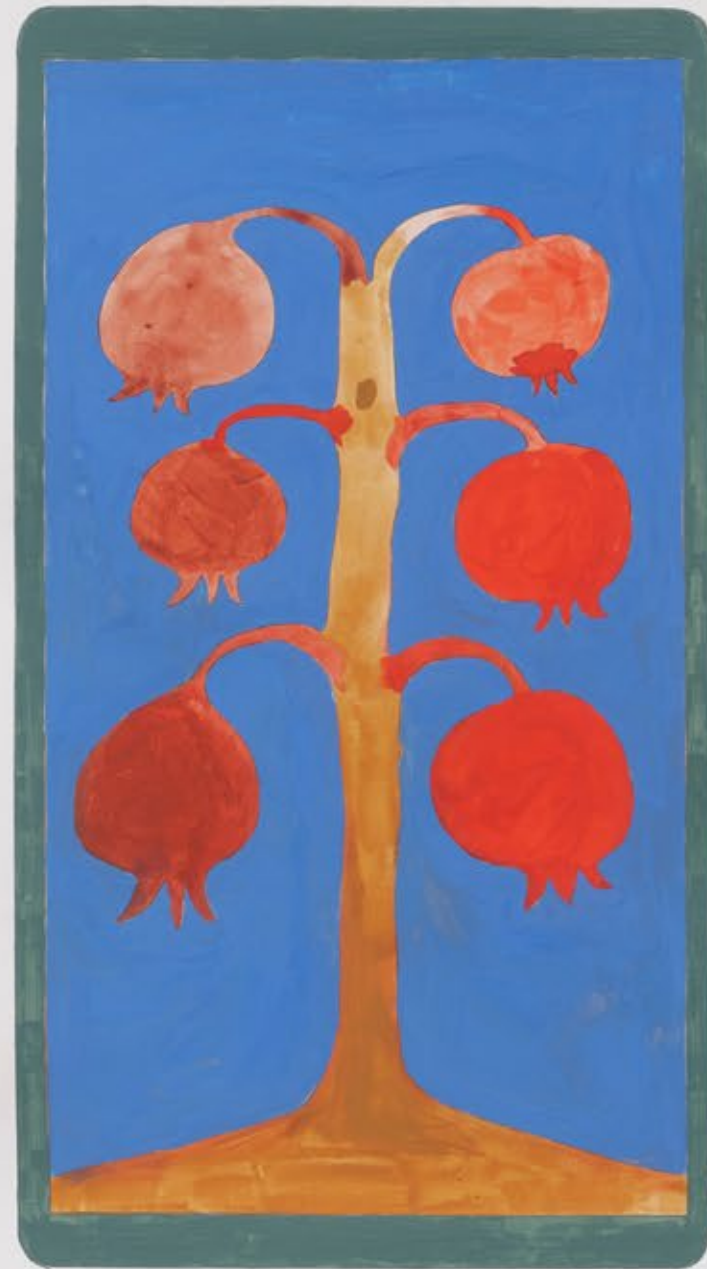


II



III

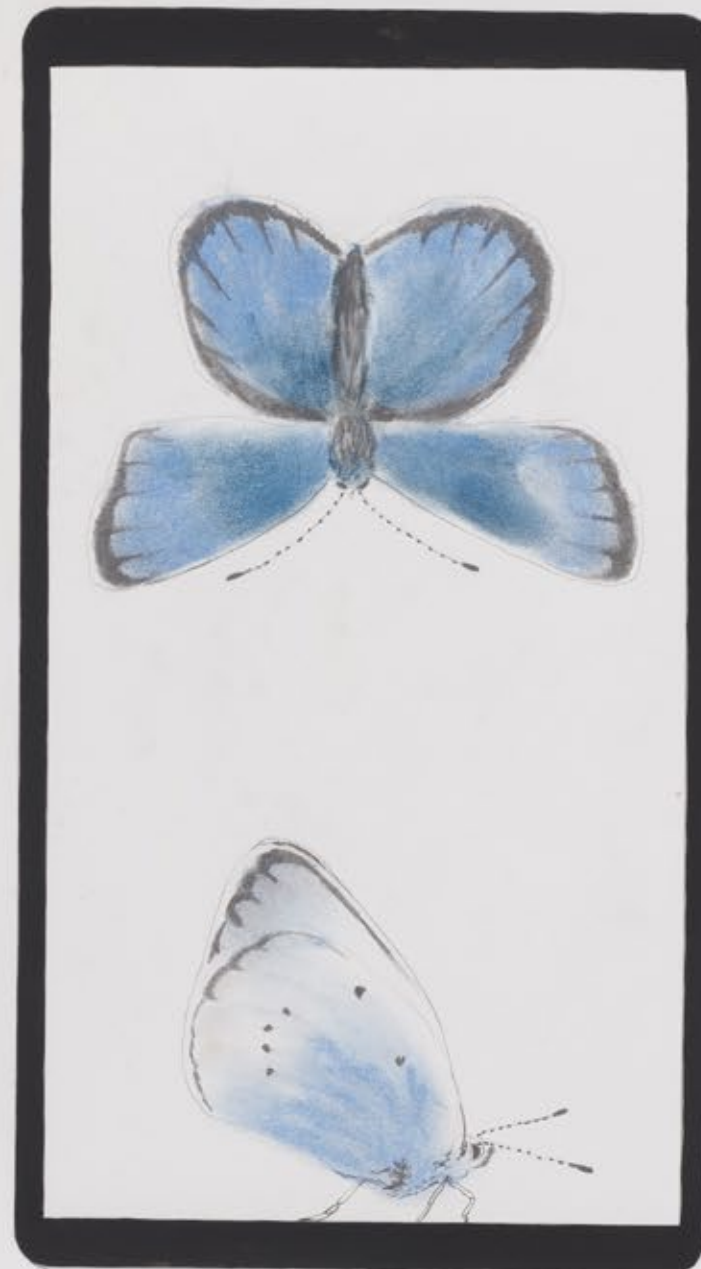
Aidan Koch
Three Card Spread
(Starburst, Sitting Figure, Nile Delta), 2023
graphite, gouache, watercolor and soft pastel on paper
30 x 22 inches
76.2 x 55.88 cm
AK0055



I



II



III

Aidan Koch
Three Card Spread
(Pomegranate Tree, Green Comet, Fender's Blue), 2023
graphite, gouache, watercolor and soft pastel on paper
30 x 22 inches
76.2 x 55.88 cm
AK0056



I



II



III

Aidan Koch
Three Card Spread
(Mourning Doves, Sun, Juggler), 2023
graphite, gouache, watercolor and soft pastel on paper
30 x 22 inches
76.2 x 55.88 cm
AK0057

Aidan Koch
Dove Nest April 2020, 2023
Wood, cotton fiber, shells, tacs, glass eggs
48 x 16 x 16 inches
121.92 x 40.64 x 40.64 cm
AK0059



Aidan Koch
Dove Nest May 2020, 2023
Wood, dried vegetation, glass eggs
64 x 10 x 7 inches
162.56 x 25.4 x 17.78 cm
AK0060



Aidan Koch
Dove Nest April 2021, 2023
Ceramic, glass eggs
7 x 4½ x 4½ inches
17.78 x 11.43 x 11.43 cm
AK0061



Aidan Koch
Paving the Pacific, 2023
hand-drawn animation
TRT 1:06
AK0058
Edition of 5
Sound by Caroline Partamian
<https://vimeo.com/815078819>



AIDAN KOCH

b. 1988 in Seattle, WA
Lives and works in Landers, CA

EDUCATION

2022 MFA Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, BC
2009 BFA Pacific NW College of Art, Portland, OR

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 Wing Whistles, Paul Soto, Los Angeles, CA
2022 Tides and Trees, 14a, Hamburg, DE
2020 Always put the rock back, Park View/Paul Soto, Los Angeles, CA
2018 Kiss of Light from a New Dawn, Naughton Gallery at Queens University, Belfast, UK
Love among the butterflies, 14A Galerie, Hamburg, Germany
2017 A to Zed, Park View, Los Angeles, CA
2016 Iris, Signal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Capture, Picture Room, New York, NY
The Midnight Room, Open Space, Baltimore, MD
The Sleeper, Weekends, London, UK
2014 Mood Board, Mission Comics, San Francisco, CA
Notes, City Limits, Oakland, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 The Minotaur's Daydream, Semiose Gallery, Paris, FR
2021 Moonshow, Hearth Garage, Toronto, ON
2020 No Longer, Not Yet, Essex Flowers, New York, NY
2019 Narrative Architectures, 45 National Salon of Artists, Centro Colombo Americano, Bogota, Colombia
Rebus, Fumetto Comics Festival, Kali Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
2018 Eye to Eye, Arsenal Contemporary, New York, NY
2017 The Best American Comics Selections: 2014-2017, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN
2017 In Search of, Transmitter, Brooklyn, NY
2017 Okey Dokey, curated by Park View, DREI, Cologne, Germany
2016 Dreamlands: Immersive Cinema and Art, 1905 – 2016, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Olympia, curated by Karma, Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris
The Person You are Trying to Reach is Not Available, Hester Gallery, New York
Someday this will be funny, Company Gallery, New York, NY
2015 Elizabeth Jaeger, Ann Greene Kelly, Aidan Koch, And Now, Dallas, TX
31st Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana, curated by Nicola Lees, Stella Bottai, and Laura McLeanFerris, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Sublime, Autobody, Bellport, NY
Sara two, Hester Gallery, New York, NY
MDCCLXXXIV, Kimberly Klark, Ridgewood, NY
Fissure: Fog, Signal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2013 Reconstructing Comics, Lakeland College, Plymouth, WI

RESIDENCIES

2014 Maison des Auteurs, Angouleme, France
2012 Epicenter, Green River, UT
Skylab, Columbus, OH

PUBLICATIONS

2021 Stone Blue Sky, Sporen
2020 Man Made Lake, Kuš
La Espiral, AIA Ediciones and Ediciones Valientes
2019 The psychic said 'Blossoming,' NOOM books
2017 Daughter, Kuš, Copenhagen
2016 After Nothing Comes, Koyama Press, ed. Bill Kartalopoulos
Little Angels, MoMA PS1: Greater New York series
2015 Heavenly Seas, The Paris Review, summer issue
2014 Impressions, Peradam Press
2012 Field Studies, Floating World Comics
2012 The Blonde Woman, self-published with support from the Xeric Foundation
2011 Astral Talk, Publication Studio, ed. Aidan Koch
2010 The WHALE, Gaze Books

VISITING ARTIST LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

2020 Anthropocene Campus, CIUHCT, Lisbon Portugal
2016 The LAKES festival, Kendal, UK, October
Swiss Institute, New York, NY, August
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, March
Sequential Artists Workshop, Gainesville, FL, March
2015 Parsons, New York, NY, December
LUCA Sint-Lukas, Antwerp, Belgium, November
The Animation Workshop, Vyborg, Denmark, April
Sequential Artists Workshop, Gainesville, FL, March
Parsons, New York, NY, February
2014 LUCA Sint-Lukas, Brussels, Belgium, April
2013 Pacific NW College of Art, Portland, OR, March
2012 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, June

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2020 Cooper, Ashton, "Critics' Pick: Aidan Koch at Park View/Paul Soto," Artforum.com, February 28
2017 "On Being Multiple Selves: An Interview with Aidan Koch," Yale Literary Magazine, Fall
St. Clair, Megan, "A Menagerie of Delicate Fabrications and Intimate Drawings Enliven an Apartment Gallery," Hyperallergic, March 29
Morgan, Nicholas, "Critics' Pick: Aidan Koch at Park View," Artforum.com, March 28
2016 Novgorodoff, Danica, "Enter the Void: on Aidan Koch's 'After Nothing Comes,'" Artforum, October
Halpert, Juliana, "Critics' Pick: Aidan Koch at Signal Gallery," Artforum.com, September 15
McStay, Chantal, "Aidan Koch," BOMB Magazine, May 10
2015 Rudick, Nicole, "Long Story Short: In The Studio with Aidan Koch," The Paris Review, August 20
2013 Peltz, Amy, "A Visual Turn; Comics and Art after the Graphic Novel," Art in Print, March - April