

# NAGEL GALERIE DRAXLER

## LUTZ BRAUN

Opening: Friday, November 24, 2023, 6-9 pm

Exhibition: November 25, 2023 – January 20, 2024

## PRESS RELEASE

These four paintings are my largest formats on canvas to date. Originating from the painting „Affen monumental“ (300 x 300 cm, acrylic on canvas) which I made in 2006 during an artist residency in the Tongzhou district near Beijing and which dealt with a cliché of German male artists in China, I began three more large formats in June 2023 all of which are founded on personal history.

„Anarchie 1990“ (300 x 300 cm, acrylic on canvas) harks back to my own experience in the summer of 1990 when the GDR still existed in its final state of decay. I visited my relatives on the island of Rügen and tried to skateboard - something I was constantly trying to learn, originally to impress a girl - on what were arguably the roughest streets in the world. My uncle Karsten drove with me and my cousin on cobblestone streets to go swimming. The cassette player in the car wound the tape askew due to the vibrations, but still allowed us to listen to the much-copied Depeche Mode live album.

As we fantasized about dinner, with still wet hair by the open window, where the wind carried the scent of grass, trees, and blossoms, I secretly thought about what it would be like to finally kiss someone. I have known that urgent feeling of expectation in my stomach, from that time. Streets and station squares were lined with dust- or rock-colored residential buildings, warehouses and factories that I never stopped dreaming of bringing to life.

In "Gloria Husum" (300 x 300 cm, acrylic on canvas), I illuminate the childlike experience of almost losing my brother, who lived in a boarding school in Husum, a long time ago.

"Father show me death" (280 x 350 cm, acrylic on canvas) is about a dream in which my father, an officer in the Bundeswehr, showed me a slightly enlarged human skull in a loamy pit we had entered through a proper door from a hallway. The skull silently floated around in the underground space and appeared to execute its movement in an ironically exhilarated mood. In the dream, my father, wearing only the shirt of his uniform, pointed at the skull with his arm outstretched, as he always did when he wanted to draw my attention to phenomena of nature or animals.

In the gallery office, there are 21 framed drawings in ink, colored pencil, and graphite on various papers, created approximately within the last two years under the influence of music, interviews, and other conversations, as well as podcasts and films. In this or a similar process, hundreds of such drawings were made over the past 25 years. A catalog titled "Lutz Braun. Works on Paper" was published by "Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König".

The title of the exhibition is a short quote from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' „Thesen über Feuerbach“, one of the key works of historical materialism. In the quote, material reality is based on human action, instead of the object of contemplation, which thus unfolds revolutionary power.

- Lutz Braun