

**MICHAEL  
JANSSEN**

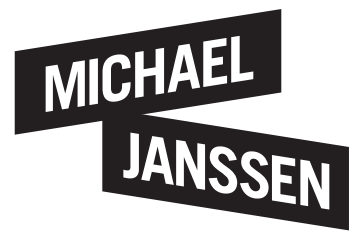
# **TILL GERHARD**

**WE'RE ALL LIKE MIRRORS**

**12 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2020**

# TILL GERHARD

## WE'RE ALL LIKE MIRRORS



12 – 26 September 2020

Opening: Friday 11 September 2020, 6–9 pm

**Galerie Michael Janssen is pleased to present “We’re all like Mirrors,” a solo exhibition by Till Gerhard. Consisting of a series of recent paintings, all produced within the last year, the exhibition will be the artist’s fourth solo showing at the gallery that will take place during gallery weekend and will be the last exhibition before the gallery relocates to its new space in Berlin.**

In the exhibition, Gerhard presents paintings in the style now characteristic of his oeuvre that combines pop, quintessential images with dream scenes of figures awash in nature. These oil and acrylic paintings blur media representations with fantasy worlds, worlds that do not so much depart from the real but are remembered pasts, significant recollections whose edges have begun to speckle under time’s duress. Such is the case with the work *Pied Piper*, a painting named after the folk tale of the same name. Gerhard has depicted four children transfixed. They are fixed on a point, a horizon perhaps, that lies in front of them – a place in the canvas that was brushed away. What we can read instead is the children’s expressions of awe, reminding the viewer that childhood is always folded into another reality, one which doesn’t have clear navigable coordinates, but must be decoded and thus, altered. Resonating this style, another painting titled *Filz* shows a figure in mid stride, walking away from a green forest made of wide brushstrokes of dark green and magenta. In the place of a face, there is just ghostly sinews.

Many of Gerhard’s paintings have a distinct rhythm. This rhythm is often generated from a scene being disrupted. Though many of the images draw on iconographic imagery, such as a photograph of Bob Dylan in *Bob*, a portrait of the musician or a scene from a festival in the show’s eponymous painting *We’re all Like Mirrors*. Seen through the artist’s lens, these scenes become incongruous, partially remembered and partially imagined. This effect is created through an almost monochrome wash of purple, out of which figures emerge. The figures are frozen, enmeshed in a psychedelic cadence, while other parts of the canvas are abstracted grounds of colors.

Though many of the works within the series that make up “We’re all like Mirrors” are painted after iconic scenes that are part of collective memory, Gerhard’s fragmented abstractions expands on how collective memory often discards and selects imperfectly. As in the song “Anthem” by Leonard Cohen that was inspirational for this series of works: “There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in.” This crack is made evident in the speckled flecks of color in *Pyro*, a painting where three men stand in front of an orange plane. Grayish spots of paint interrupt the image, pulling the viewer away from the scene. Like on a photographic negative that is sometimes seized by a chemical reaction that degrades the pictorial plane, the work reminds us that every image can give way to entropy. The matter of these entropic elements, as time to experience, both forebode destruction and hold the power to make the image anew. These two states, oblivion and recollection sit together on the surface within this series. Is forgetting memory’s undoing, or are images still images when robbed of their power to accurately portray? Rather, the two in the right balance, can materialize new possibilities and interplays.

Text: Vanessa Gravenor



Installation view *We're all like Mirrors*, Galerie Michael Janssen, 2020  
Photo credit: Gunter Lepkowski



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TILL GERHARD



Till Gerhard **Filz** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Leinwand / Oil and acrylic on canvas  
190 x 150 cm



TILL GERHARD



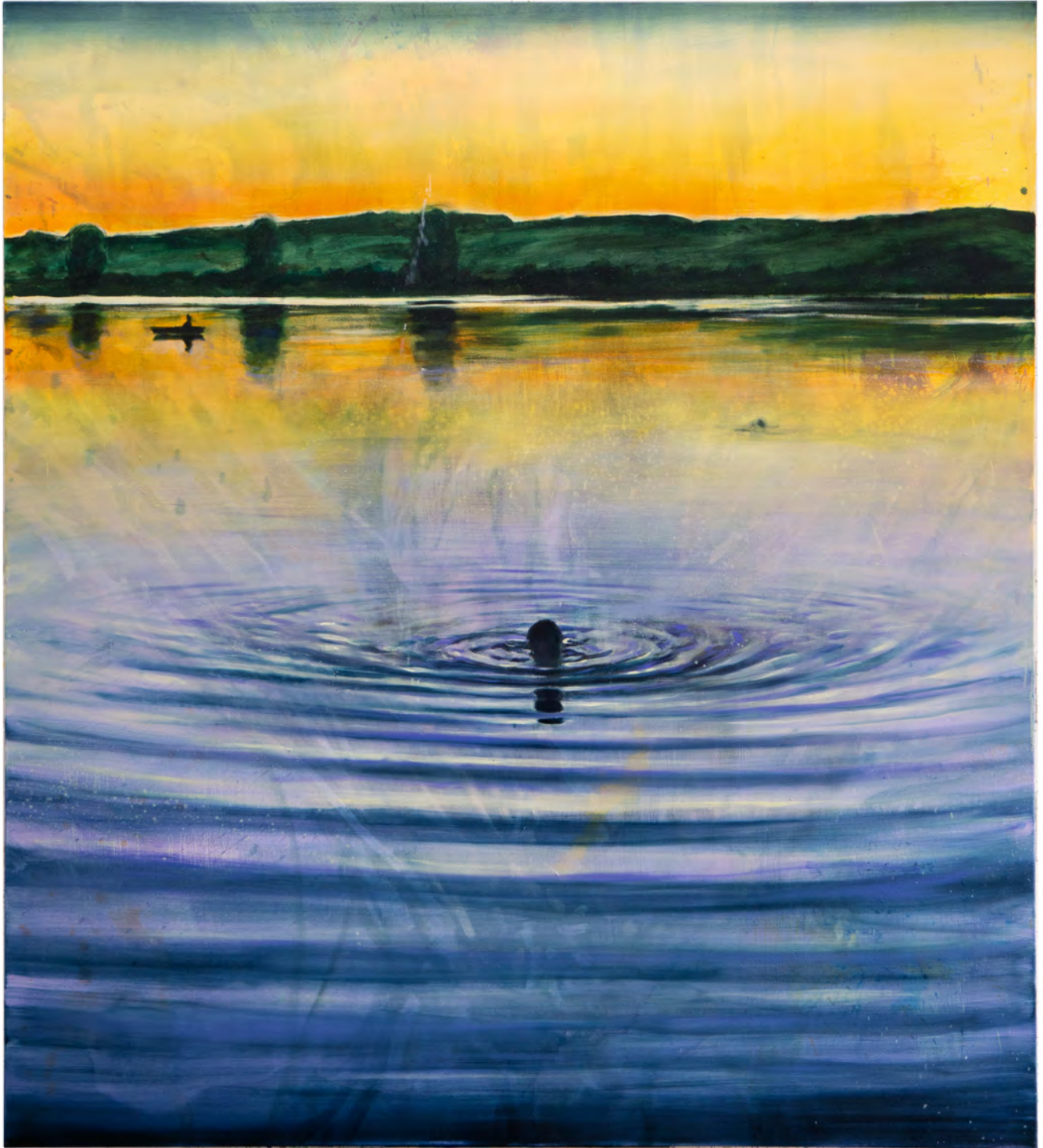
Till Gerhard **We're all like Mirrors** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
210 x 280 cm

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Till Gerhard **Lagune** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
190 x 150 cm

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Till Gerhard **Nachtschwimmer** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
200 x 180 cm

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Till Gerhard **Pied Piper** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
70 x 70 cm

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Till Gerhard **Pyro** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
60 x 50 cm

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Till Gerhard **Aurora** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Leinwand / Oil and acrylic on canvas  
31 x 31 cm

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Till Gerhard **Bob** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
50 x 40 cm

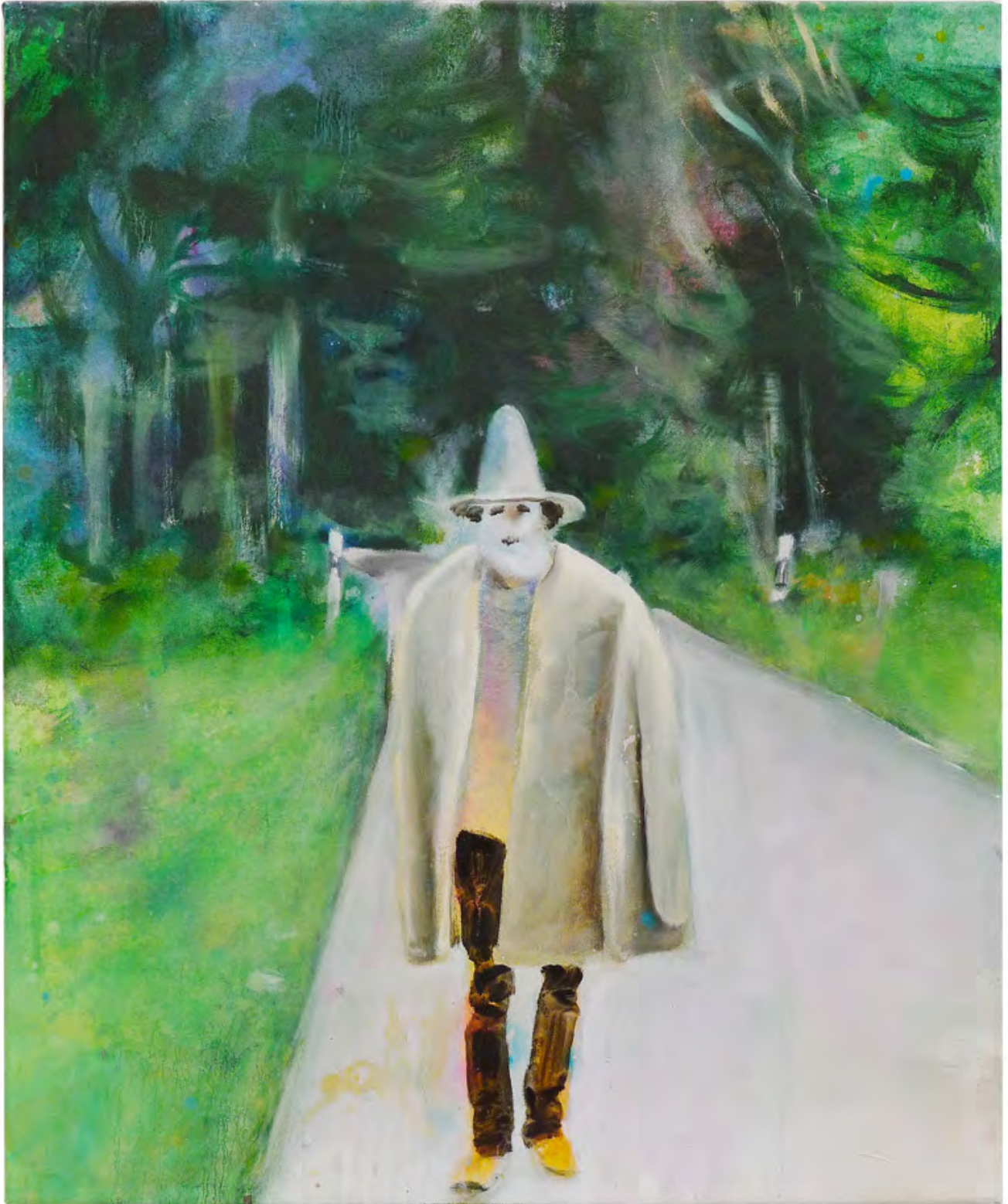
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Till Gerhard **Vollmondfeuer** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Leinwand / Oil and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 50 cm



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Till Gerhard **Felt** 2020  
Öl und Acryl auf Baumwolle / Oil and acrylic on cotton  
60 x 50 cm

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Till Gerhard **Balabiott** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
32 x 24 cm

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Till Gerhard **Kaspar** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
28 x 22 cm

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Till Gerhard **Badende** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
25 x 28 cm

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Till Gerhard **Wasserfall** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
27 x 21 cm

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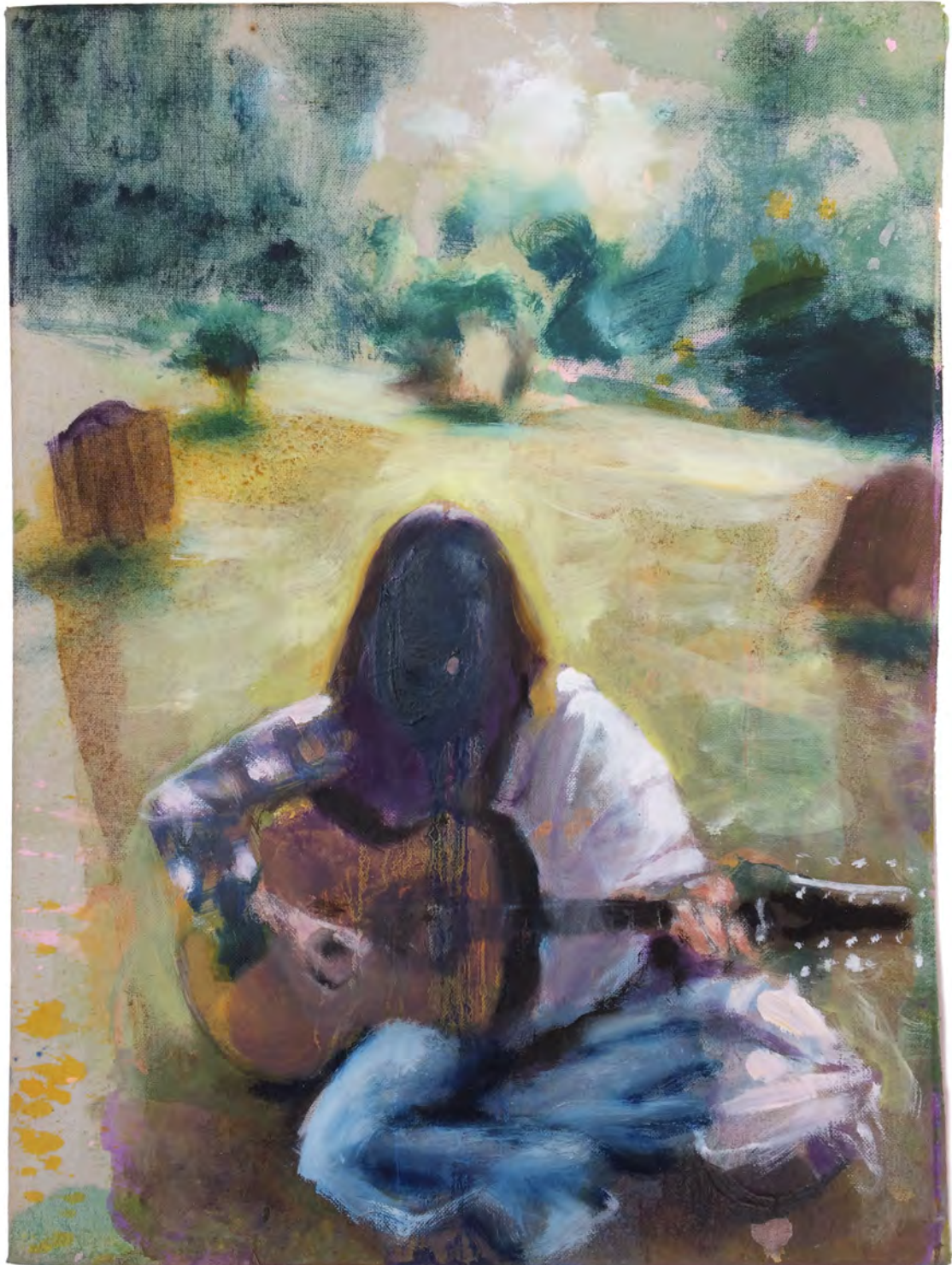
Till Gerhard **Turm** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
33 x 25 cm

TILL GERHARD



Till Gerhard **Drake** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
34 x 24 cm

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Till Gerhard **George** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
30 x 22 cm

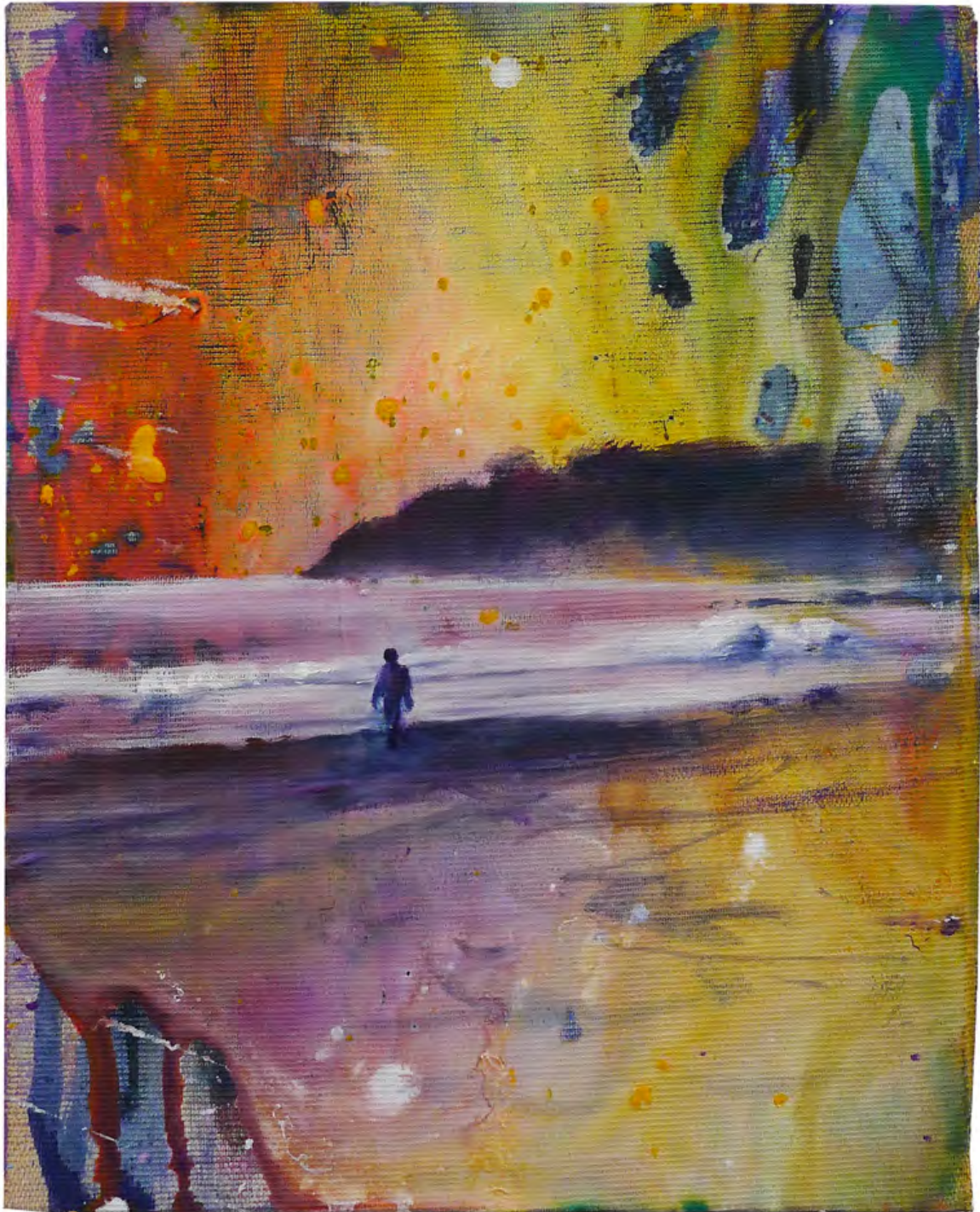


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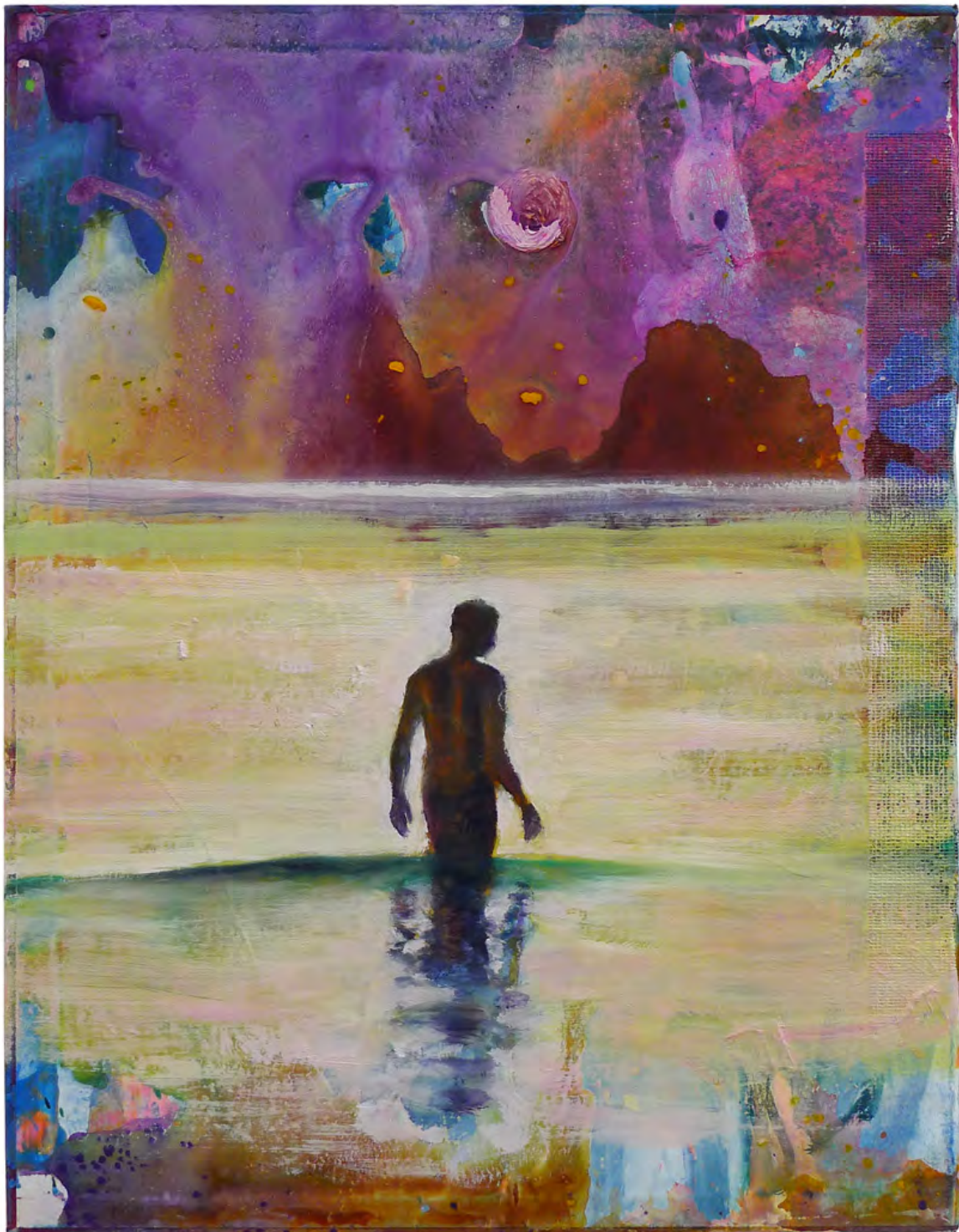
Till Gerhard **Hütte** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
30 x 22 cm

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Till Gerhard **Bolinas** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
27,5 x 22 cm

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Till Gerhard **Immer nach Hause** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
32 x 25 cm

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Till Gerhard **Morsum** 2020  
Oil and acrylic on hardback book cover  
29,5 x 20,5 cm

# TILL GERHARD

1971 geboren / born in Hamburg

1998 Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften / FB Gestaltung, Hamburg

1993 Muthesius Hochschule für Kunst und Gestaltung, Kiel

lebt und arbeitet / lives and works in Huntlosen, Germany

## EINZELAUSSTELLUNGEN / SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 (upcoming) Kunstverein Heilbronn

2020 **We're all like Mirrors**, Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin

**Heute leider keine Eier**, Feinkunst Krüger, Hamburg

2018 **Falsches Erwachen**, Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin

2016 **Spellbound**. The Goma, Madrid

**A Recurring Dream**. Feinkunst Krüger, Hamburg

2014 **Ahnen ahnen**. The Goma, Madrid

2013 **Fading Song of the Wood**. LOYAL, Malmö

2012 **Eulen und Engel**. Galerie Bel'Art, Stockholm

2011 **The Fifth Sun**. Galleri K, Oslo

**The Future of yesterday**. The Goma, Madrid

2009 **Dreckiges Licht der alten Zeit**. Marstall, Ahrensburg

**Das Licht am Ende**. (with Tilman Knop), Kunstverein Buchholz, Buchholz

**Arbeit im Berg der Wahrheit**. Patricia Low Gallery, Gstaad

2008 **Inneres Licht gegen äussere Dunkelheit**. Stellan Holm Gallery, New York NY

2007 **Mansion on the Hill**. Loyal, Stockholm

**Glaube, Hoffnung und Liebe**. Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin

**Erntedank**. Galleri K, Oslo

2006 **Die Rache der Wirklichkeit**. Galerie Michael Janssen, Köln

**Black Nostalgia**. Stellan Holm Gallery, New York NY

2005 **Das Wir Gefühl**. Stellan Holm Gallery, New York NY

**Die Guten und die Anderen**. Galleri K, Oslo

2004 **HelterSkelterShelter**. Projekt Just, Düsseldorf

**Zwielicht Palace**. Halle K3 auf Kampnagel, Hamburg

2003 **Heimspiel**. Marstall, Ahrensburg

2002 **Aussteiger**. Freikunst Krüger / Multiple Box, Hamburg

**AlohaDiscolnkluse**. art frankfurt projects, Frankfurt

**Aloha from Hell**. Hinterconti, Hamburg

2001 **Auf Verlangen vorzeigen**. Multiple Box, Hamburg

2000 **Horror Vacui**. Galerie Anhava, Helsinki

## GRUPPENAUSSTELLUNGEN / GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 **Eldorama**, Tripostal, Lille, France

**Les Enfants du Paradis**, MuBa Eugène Leroy, Tourcoing, France

2018 **Kles, Müller, Gerhard**, Feinkunst Krüger, Hamburg

2016 **Puertos de Entrada**. Sala de Exposiciones, Huesca, Spain

**El canto de los árboles**. Matucana 100, Santiago de Chile

2015 **La Buena Estrella**. OTR Espacio de Arte, Madrid

# TILL GERHARD

- 2014 **The Age of Collage.** Feinkunst Krüger, Hamburg
- 2013 **Pop Politics: Activism at 33 Revolutions.** CA2M, Madrid  
**Moorende Bauernfrühstück.** Feinkunst Krüger, Hamburg  
**Mortal Reflections.** IKON Ltd, Santa Monica
- 2012 **Surf+Anarchie+Alchemie.** Amtsrichterhaus, Schwarzenbek  
**Jack Helgesen Family Collection / Bildets arkeologi.** Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway  
**23\_dity-feeds&dirty-mind.** Gängeviertel, Hamburg  
**Casa de Empeño.** Anonymous Gallery, Mexico City
- 2011 **Totholz curated by Till Gerhard.** LOYAL, Malmö  
**Borowski, Brooks, Gerhard and Mull.** Stellan Holm Gallery, New York
- 2010 **Man Son.1969 - Vom Schrecken der Situation.** Villa Merkel, Esslingen  
**portugal arte 10.** Portugal Pavillon, Lissabon  
**XXL 2 TAGILE FORTI.** Velan Center for Contemporary Art, Turin
- 2009 **MAN SON 1969. Vom Schrecken der Situation.** (mit / with Mario Asef, Max Beckmann, Joseph Beuys Achim Bitter, Günter Brus, Joe Coleman, Lutz Dammbeck, Dellbrügge & de Moll, Bogomir Ecker, Martin Eder, Bob Flanagan/Sheree Rose, Meister Francke, Peter Friedl, Douglas Gordon, Dan Graham, etc.) Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (Katalog / Catalogue)  
**Knospen wollen explodieren.** Palais für aktuelle Kunst, Glückstadt
- 2008 **Works on paper.** Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad  
**Altered States Of Paint.** Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee  
**The Triumph of Painting.** Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2007 **Kombilösung: Spiegelvision.** Artleib, Düsseldorf  
**Hinter den sieben Bergen.** (mit / with Marcel Dzama, Jonathan Meese, etc.), Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad  
**Blood Meridian.** (kuratiert von / curated by David Hunt), Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin  
**Seestücke.** Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg  
**Unholy Truths.** Initial Access, Wolverhampton
- 2006 **Sunset in Athens II.** Vamiali's Gallery, Athen  
**Figuring The Landscape.** Contemporary Art Galleries, Storrs CT  
**„was wäre ich ohne dich...“.** Deutsche Kunst der letzten 40 Jahre. Stadtgalerie Prag, Prag  
**4x2.** (mit / with Alex Müller), Projekt Just, Düsseldorf  
Sammlung Falckenberg, art Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe
- 2005 **Passion des Sammelns.** Stiftung Federkiel Halle 14, Leipzig  
**See history 2005.** Kunsthalle Kiel, Kiel  
**Security check.** Arndt&Partner, Zürich  
**Gegenwärtig: Geschichtenerzähler.** Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg
- 2004 **Ein Tag, Ein Raum, Ein Bild.** Sebastian Fath Contemporary, Mannheim
- 2003 **Ohne uns hätte man Beton.** (mit / with Tilman Knop), SKAMraum, Hamburg
- 2002 **Jahresgaben.** Hinterconti, Hamburg
- 2001 **SKAMfinale.** SKAM, Hamburg  
**Marken Kunst.** art agents gallery, Hamburg
- 2000 **Nerdism.** (mit / with Henning Kles), Zeughaus, Hamburg
- 1998 **Bestandsaufnahme: 43200 min BRD.** (mit / with Henning Kles), xy-Galerie, Hamburg
- 1997 **Junge Hamburger.** Studio Galerie, Hamburg

## STIPENDIUM / GRANT

- 2004 Just, artists grant

## BIBLIOGRAFIE / BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2009 **Frenzel, S.** Review „Man Son 1969“, Monopol, March, p.110  
**Richter, P.** „Der Mann mit den Mädchen“, Frankfurter Allgemeine, February 1, p.29  
**Kuhn, N.** „Drei Engel für Manson“, Tagesspiegel, February 18, p.21
- 2008 **Weist, N.** „The Song remains the same. Till Gerhard’s Haunted Paintings“, Tokion, New York, Spring
- 2007 **The Triumph of Painting.** Saatchi Gallery, London (Katalog / Catalogue)
- 2006 **Die Guten und die Anderen.** Till Gerhard. Revolver Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt (Katalog / Catalogue)  
 „Wonderland“, Frame, Amsterdam, Sommer Issue  
 „Befremdlich schön“, Prinz, Köln, October  
**Di Blasi.** „In den Ruinen der Utopie“, Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Köln, July 8  
**Marcus, D.** „Till Gerhard\_ Black Nostalgia“, The Brooklyn Rail, New York, July  
**Baker, R. C.** „Sympathy for the Devil“, The VillageVoice, New York, July
- 2005 **Heinrich, C.** „Unterwegs mit der Wünschelrute. **Geschichtenerzähler**“, Hamburger Kunsthalle (Katalog / Catalogue)  
**Hohmann, S.** „Schadensbegrenzung und Simulation“, Security Check, Arndt & Partner (ed.), Berlin  
**Revolver.** Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt (Katalog / Catalogue)  
**Stöckmann, J.** „Die neue Unbefangenheit“, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin, April 10  
**Olsson, T.** „Hippiedrome“, Morgenbladet, Oslo, December 3  
**Flor, H.** „Paradokser på lerretet, Dagbladet, Oslo, November 13  
**Hill, P.** „The Return of Painting“, The Age, Melbourne, August 27  
**Belinda Grace, G.** „Qualitätskunst, feine Mischung“, Die Welt, Berlin, July 4  
**Engler, K.** „Ich laufe auf Reservestrom, Welt am Sonntag, Berlin, June 26  
**Klaas, H.** „Mottenkiste“, art, Hamburg, Issue 6, June  
**Seyfarth, L.** „Utopisches Durcheinander“, Kunsttermine, Neu-Isenburg, Issue 2, May/June/July  
**Schiff, H.** „Kokette Zitate: Blutjunge „Geschichtenerzähler“, Taz, Berlin, May 18  
**Liebs, H.** „Einmal Mittel Erde“, Süddeutsche Zeitung, München, April 29  
**Gardner, B. G.** „Remix verquere Wirklichkeiten“, Die Welt, Berlin, April 9  
**Knöfel, U.** „Kraut-Art für die Welt“, SPIEGEL spezial, Hamburg, Issue 4  
**Harris, nyc guide.** Till Gerhard, The Village Voice, New York, March  
**Chauveau, J.** „American psycho Mixte“, June/July
- 2004 **Till Gerhard. HelterSkelterShelter.** Artist grant, Just Düsseldorf, Snoeck, Köln (Katalog / Catalogue)  
**Meister, H.** „Flotter Mix aus Alltag und Albtraum“, Westdeutsche Zeitung, Düsseldorf, August 26
- 2000 **Rautio, P.** „Nykyaikaine kansanmaalari, Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki, September 23  
**Lappalainen, M.L.** „Anhavassa ei ahdista“, Ilta-Sanomat, Helsinki, September 7
- 1999 **Ljubic, N.** „Die Reporter“, Jetzt, München, Issue 32, August

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Frank Cohen Collection (Wolverhampton), Saatchi Collection (London), Sammlung Falckenberg (Hamburg), Hamburger Kunsthalle, Andrew and Christine Hall Collection (New York), Hort Family Collection (New York), Jack Helgesen Family Collection (Oslo), Jumex Collection (Mexico City), Julia Stoschek Collection (Düsseldorf), Inelcom Collection (Madrid), Aby Rosen Collection (New York), Richard Prince (New York), Janos Pataky Collection (Stockholm), Bo Fornstedt Collection (Stockholm), Frahm Collection (London/Kopenhagen), The Kostyal Trust (London), Bruce Bailey Collection (Toronto).