



ARMEN ELOYAN

»-> exhibition from 23rd June to 7th October 2018

FRAC, 24bis BD AMPÈRE, LA FLEURIAYE,
CARQUEFOU

from Wednesday to Sunday: 2:00 - 6:00 pm

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The moon-headed man stands out against a midnight blue ground, in a medium close-up. A long scar splits the right side of his face shrouded in shadow, running like a rail track through the eye that has given way to a black hole. Could it be from this gaping space that Armen Eloyan draws the ink blood that he spreads with such energy in his work, deeply charged with black moods and black humour? In imposing formats that fully involve his body, the artist depicts the hidden face of a 'wonderful world' that he dis-figures while at the same time forcefully revealing its true face, its dark, chaotic side.

Like 'abstract versions of the original', his paintings, drawings and sculptures revive and revisit familiar figures, taken from globalised popular culture and both individual and collective memory: Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Wile E. Coyote and other cartoon and animation icons resurface as grotesque figures of dubious and disputable morals, projected in devilish scenes where (often masturbatory) sex and violence rule, and in which man's perverse, animal side is sketched in innuendo, present in and among these anthropomorphic creatures. Human and non-human, tragedy and comedy, fairyland and dystopia meet and mingle, forming the spark of explosive, ambiguous, twisted, befuddled tales, that seem to engage in a secret dialogue

with certain dark (and sometimes buried) episodes of History, riddled with freshly-smarting scars and still open wounds. Accentuated by the recurring motif of duality – whether in the combination of two paintings that make up a single whole or in the number of figures that are depicted there – the dramatic tension that Armen Eloyan generates and establishes goes hand in hand with the sparseness and garbled legibility of the text. Drawing on the aesthetics of both street art and comic strips, the writing undergoes a doubly 'performative' movement, as if secretly running on batcave energy. It is a matter of making the image speak as much as of making the image via textual matter, according to a resolutely expressive but intentionally cryptic and interferential logic, deliberate in its non-communication.

The Frac des Pays de la Loire regional collection of contemporary art plays host to a conversation between several pieces created over the last ten years, up until quite recently, which gives off the indefinable scent of melancholy and disillusion that imbues Armen Eloyan's singular, 'disturbed' and disturbing work. In addition to the large- or extra-large-format (single or double) paintings, there is a series of sculptures whose volumes represent strange polymorphic and hybrid creatures in various materials (plaster, wood, cardboard, fabric, ink, paint, etc.). As if taken straight out of certain two-dimensional works, the dishevelled, gangling creatures, like disconcerting totem dolls, by their very presence heighten the phenomena of erection and embedding of a haunting obsession that inhabits and mirrors a world onto which no window opens, but all doors are closed. That's all folks!

Anne-Lou Vicente, April 2018

The Frac thanks the Timothy Taylor Gallery (London) and especially the Tim van Laere Gallery (Antwerp).

Le Frac des Pays de la Loire est co-financé par l'État et la Région des Pays de la Loire, et bénéficie du soutien du Département de Loire-Atlantique.

Exposition réalisée avec le soutien de la Fondation d'entreprise Sodebo.



PLATFORM



Visual : Armen Eloyan, *Portrait 1*, 2016
Oil on canvas, 290 x 450cm
Courtesy Timothy Taylor Gallery



ARMEN ELOYAN

Armen Eloyan was born in Armenia in 1966. He studied at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, graduating in 2005. He lives and works in Zurich.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017 *Armen Eloyan*, Galerie Nicola von Senger, Zurich, Switzerland
 2017 *Armen Eloyan*, Timothy Taylor, New York, USA
 2016 *Armen Eloyan: Garden*, Timothy Taylor, London, UK
 2014 *Armen Eloyan*, Patrick Painter, Los Angeles, LA, USA
 2013 *Sailor*, Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich, Switzerland
 2013 *Corn in your fruity basket*, Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
 2012 *Day by Day Part II*, Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
 2011 *End of Summer, Beginning of Autumn*, Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 2009 *Armen Eloyan: Paintings*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, UK
 2009 *Armen Eloyan: bees left it or bears do it*, Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich, Switzerland
 2008 *Local Gothic and Culture*, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, St Gallen, Switzerland
 2007 *Bookstore Cure*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, UK
 2006 *Centre Culturel Suisse*, Paris, France
 2006 *Two feet in One Shoe*, Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London, UK
 2005 *Infected Eye*, curated by -oep van Liefeland, Autocenter, Berlin, Germany
 2004 *Comic-related Paintings*, Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich, Switzerland
 2004 *The More I remember*, Fries Museum, Leeuwarden; De Praktijk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 2003 *Welcome home where we are*, Gem, The Haag, The Netherlands

2002 *Wir rufen euch*, De Praktijk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2000 Recent Works, Kunstenaarsinitiatief MXO, The Haag, The Netherlands
2000 *Martyrs*, De Praktijk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2000 Armen Eloyan, Coopmanshus Museum, Franeker, The Netherlands

Selected Group Exhibitions

2015 *Substance*, Timothy Taylor, London, UK
2015 *Carlos Place*, London, UK
2014 *Zwei Zeiten* (with Josef Scharl), curated by Harald Spengler, Kunstparterre, Munich, Germany
2014 *Portray*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
2014 *The Pink Spy*, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium
2014 *Old tin cutlery before the intitation of the fork*, Breese Little, London, UK
2014 *Vernacular Alchemists*, Passerelle Centre d'art contemporain, Brest, France
2013 *De belles sculptures contemporaines*, Frac de Pays de la Loire, CarTuefou, France
2013 *Mais in deinem)ruchtekor*, Galerie Zink, Berlin, Germany
2013 *The Gallery Collection*, curated by Beda Achermann, Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich, Switzerland
2011 *Mr Killer/ Lady Paranoia*, Galerie Polad-Hardouin, Paris, France
2011 *Make Believe*, Galleri Magnus Karlsson, Stockholm, Sweden
2011 *East: Excitable Speech: West*, curated by Adam Budak, Kerstin Engholm Galerie, Vienna, Austria
2011 *Where Cuckoos Nest in Autumn*, SAL Projects, Basel, Switzerland
2011 *Viel Lärm um Alles. Barockes in der zeitgenössischen Kunst*, Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf, Switzerland
2011 *Cas de figures*, La Station, Nice, France
2010 *Luc Tuymans: A Vision of Central Europe*, curated by Luc Tuymans, Groeningemuseum, Brugges, Belgium
2010 *Knock Knock*, Armand Bartos Fine Art, New York, NY, USA
2010 *She Awoke with a Jerk*, curated by Nigel Cooke, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2010 *ANIMISM*, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland
2009 *Holy Destruction*, Galerie Polad Hardouin, Paris, France
2009 *Until the End of the World*, AMP Gallery, Athens, Greece
2009 *Ventriloquist*, curated by Emma Dexter, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, UK
2008 *INVOLVED*, curated by Philippe Piroette, ShanghART Gallery & H Space, Shanghai, China
2008 *Summer Show*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, UK
2007 *Bad Dad*, (with Narcisse Tordoir) Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp, Belgium
2007 *On the Marriage Broker Joke*, Office BaroTue, Antwerp, Belgium
2006 *9Villa Jelmini* in Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland
2005 *Territoria kunst uit Nederland in en rond Prato*, Centro per l'Arte
2005 *Contemporanea*, Luigi Pecci, Italy
2005 *Malpractice*, De Praktijk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2005 *Open Studios*, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2004 *Sunblock, Zomergroepstentoonstelling*, De Praktijk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2004 *Open Studios*, Rijksakademie van Beeldende

Kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2003 *To Avoid the Void*, Artwalk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Selected Publications

2014 *Armen Eloyan: Interdependent relations between Comic and Animated Cartoons*, Paris: Onestar Press
2014 Beard, Lee and Rebecca Morrill ed., *The Twenty-First Century Art Book*, London: Phaidon Press Limited, p.78
2012 *Bartholomeeusen, Goedele, Armen Eloyan: Day by Day Part II*, Antwerp: Tim van Laere Gallery
2008 Dexter, Emma and Martin Herbert, *Armen Eloyan: Bookstore Cure*, London: Timothy Taylor Gallery

Available visuals :



Armen Eloyan, *Country House*, 2009
Oil on canvas
180 x 240cm
Courtesy Tim van Laere Gallery



Armen Eloyan, *Daily Strips*, 2016
Acrylic on canvas
290 x 450cm
Courtesy Timothy Taylor Gallery



Armen Eloyan, *Portrait 1*, 2016
Oil on canvas
290 x 450cm
Courtesy Timothy Taylor Gallery



Armen Eloyan, *Untitled*, 2017
Oil on canvas
110 x 140cm
Courtesy Tim van Laere Gallery



Armen Eloyan, *Mickey Mouse, Youth*, 2009
Oil on canvas
240 x 360cm (Diptych)
Courtesy Tim van Laere Gallery



Armen Eloyan, *Untitled*, 2009
Oil on canvas
240 x 180cm
Courtesy Tim van Laere Gallery