

Carroll Dunham

Somatic Transmission & Qualiascope (Recent Paintings)

57, rue du Temple, 75004, Paris

30 April – 4 June 2022

Opening 30 April, 6-9pm

Somatic Transmission & Qualiascope (Recent Paintings), Carroll Dunham's first solo exhibition with Galerie Max Hetzler, Paris, explores, through the same singular visual language the artist has developed since the 1970s, several of recurrent themes in his work: gender, sexuality, the relationship to the body, taboos and human nature.

Carroll Dunham is an American artist known for his works endowed with vivid colours and schematic lines borrowed from Naïve art. He was initially inspired by Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism and Pop art, as well as philosophy, science and the representation of the body throughout art history. First depicting abstract but organic elements, he gradually developed a figurative language in the decades that followed, eventually focusing on the human figure, biomorphic forms, or motifs such as textured hills and trees.

Carroll Dunham's human bodies are immediately recognisable as stereotypes. These penises, nipples, buttocks and hair are invested with such neutrality and objectivity that they elude any reference to pornography, which has become commonplace in contemporary culture. There is indeed something archetypal in the couples of lovers and isolated representations of shaggy men and women referring to an ancient future hidden somewhere in the cosmos. Dunham's interest in science fiction and cartoons explains the use of kryptonite green. His multiple references question: are these protagonists taken from 'The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex' by Charles Darwin? Do they emerge from Adam and Eve's Garden of Eden? Their universality is highlighted by the repetition and the anonymity of these men and women whose faces are never shown.

The artist invites us to see pure moments of intimacy, sealed by tight double framings, shortcuts and close-ups, as we would see through a keyhole. We become voyeurs, looking over these characters' shoulders, submitting them to our controlling gaze. And indeed, the title *Somatic Transmission & Qualiascope* refers to a scientific 'analysis of a group of green humans to understand how their inner & sex lives work, to see "what they are made of"'.¹



Qualiascope: Solar Wind, 2021-2022

Photo: © Carroll Dunham

1. Carroll Dunham, 2022

Carroll Dunham (*1949, New Haven, Connecticut) lives and works in New York City and Connecticut. Dunham's work has been presented in exhibitions worldwide, including at Galerie Max Hetzler, London (2021); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and Sprengel Museum Hannover (2019–2020); Denver Art Museum (2014); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2009); Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin (2008); Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover (2008); Drammens Museum (2006); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2002); and Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (1996). Works by Dunham are held in major public collections including the Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Tate, London; The Art Institute, Chicago; The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Philadelphia Museum of Art; and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

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3 March – 21 May 2022

Thomas Struth

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3 March – 21 April 2022

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26 April – 1 June 2022

Hans Josephsohn

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28 April – 6 August 2022

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28 April – 6 August 2022

Günther Förg

Window Gallery, Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

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Jeremy Demester

Djemy

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