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CAROLIN KROPFF: 'FATA MORGANA'

(XVA GALLERY, DUBAI, UAE: 5 April – 5 May 2010) On 5th April, the debut solo show of German UAE-based artist Carolin Kropff will open at XVA Gallery. The exhibition, aptly entitled 'Fata Morgana', consists of a series of paintings, inspired by billboards created to promote Dubailand and the Bawadi theme hotels in Dubai. Both construction projects were to be located on the outskirts of Dubai, but were abolished prior to completion. The artist has dramatically recorded on large-scale canvases how these theatrical constructions appeared differently throughout the day, with changes of position and light. Kropff's work highlights the temporal landscape of Dubai, and in this case, its surreal qualities. Her work emphasizes the chameleon-like appearance of a city undergoing constant change and currently experiencing economic uncertainty.

CAROLIN KROPFF – ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Driving past these theatrical 3D constructions in a plain desert environment, I was enthralled by their chameleon-like appearance as the facades incessantly altered with the change of position, light and time. Under my mobile gaze, the simple industrialized illusions of the billboards faded beyond recognition, yet remained as monumental landmarks, as promises of fortune and pleasure of a future world. Both, the construction and deconstruction presented a surreal quality, an uneasy icon. In my work I follow that path to dissolve the visual world and meticulously put it back together with clusters of pigments, exploring the wide world of representation.

Carolin Kropff, 2009

CAROLIN KROPFF - BIOGRAPHY

Currently living and working in Dubai.

Education:

- 1995 - 1998 Graduated in Fine Arts at Hochschule der Bildenden Künste, Staedelschule Frankfurt am Main Klasse Näher, Germany
- 1995 - 1991 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Klasse Kneidl, Schiff, Eggenschwieler Germany
- 1993 Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Facultad de Bellas Artes Spain
- 1989 - 1991 Tailor's workshop at Staedtische Buehnen der Stad Dortmund, stage and costume design assistant, Germany

Exhibitions:

- 2009 *Made in Tashkeel*, Tashkeel, Dubai,

- 2008 *Made in Tashkeel*, Tashkeel, Dubai
Women in Art, Courtyard Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 Familientreffen, Ausstellungshalle, Frankfurt/M
Rundgang Atelierfrankfurt Frankfurt
- 2006 Malerei, Projektraum im Atelierfrankfurt, Frankfurt/M
- 2005 Milchsack, Frankfurt/M
- 2003 Diesmal, Frankfurt/M
- 2001 Blachfeld, auswaertsKunstraum, Frankfurt/M
- 1998 Stuttgart, 17.7.1956 - Salem (Wis.) USA 3.3.1977, Portikus Frankfurt/M
- 1995 Spektakel, Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund
- 1994 Kunsthaus am Tierpark e.V., Dortmund
- 1993 Dortmunder Studenten stellen aus, Stadtmuseum Beckum, Germany

XVA GALLERY

From 2003, XVA has pioneered contemporary Middle Eastern art in Dubai. It is now one of the foremost contemporary art galleries in the Middle East. In 2008 and 2009 XVA participated at the Shanghai and Hong Kong Contemporary Art Fairs, the Asia Contemporary Art Fair in New York and the Dubai International Design Forum. XVA artists have recently exhibited in the 2009 Venice Biennale, Art Abu Dhabi 2009 and the 'Unveiled: New Art From the Middle East' exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, London. XVA Gallery founded the Bastakiya Art Fair in 2007, initiating an important platform to showcase the art of local galleries as well as attracting international curators. Held every March, BAF coincides with the events of Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale.

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