



Selfportrait (The Fall of Icarus), 2009, oil on canvas, 290 x 178 cm (detail)

## Gregory Forstner

« Looking for Icarus »

Galerie Zink München January 15 - February 27, 2010

Gregory Forstner (\*1975 Douala/Cameroon) studied at the art academies of Vienna, Nice and Paris. In 2008 Gregory Forstner has received a grant from **CulturesFrance** (French ministry of cultural affairs) as part of the Triangle Arts Association residency program in New York. He currently lives and works in New York. The **Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain in Nice** presented a solo show of his works in 2007, that was followed by a solo exhibition at the **Musée de Grenoble** in 2009.

The Galerie Zink Munich will present works from his recent series „**Looking for Icarus**“ from the 15 th of January 2008.

Gregory Forstner is a passionate painter. The energy and verve of this 34 years old French artist is remarkable. His often large-format sceneries painted with a sweeping, loose brush stand within the art historical tradition of the grotesque bringing both together humorous and melancholic aspects.

In « Looking for Icarus », Gregory Forstner begins where Brueghel's painting « the Fall of Icarus » ends : Icarus's feet sticking out of the water still full of vitality and urge to survive in a little corner of the painting as if it were a secondary subject whereas the landscape stands as a metaphor of the passage of time. Icarus is one of the first archetype that Forstner developed 10 years ago as a familiar figure depicting with both humor and melancholy the ambition of the artist and possibly his fall. A universal and yet personal archetype that expresses the contradictions and limits within the human kind.

A starting point where the Artist conveys Icarus with other protagonists and moving figures part of his personal mythology such as the « Diver »\* or the « Fisherman » potentially representing the artist himself in disguise as the ambitious artist and/or Dedalus the Father looking for his son after his fall.

As always in Forstner's work the plots and the archetypes taking place in his often monumental paintings expresses the contradictions within the human kind, its self consciousness and absurdity as a fundamental statement of its condition.

*« The subject tells me how to paint, he's the one to decide, it doesn't work the other way around, the subject guides me, if it tells me to be more introspective I put myself in the mood and paint accordingly, if the subject tells me to party, I put a hat on, maybe a mask and join the party !(...) »*  
Gregory Forstner (Novembre 2009)

*« It comes in a burst, it seems. And each brushstroke seems to remain there etched on the canvas. This gives it its movement, its ardor, its reinvigorating energy. »*  
Guy Tosatto (director of the Musée de Grenoble), in: Gregory Forstner, The Ship of Fools, Verlag für moderne Kunst Nürnberg, 2009., p. 13

\*already depicted as Oedipus Father or as a self portrait in « The Waiting Room » and the « Ship of Fools » series recently shown in a comprehensive solo show at the Museum of Grenoble, summer 2009.

**The artist will be present at the opening on January 14, 2010, 6 to 9 pm.**

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