

Press release

Filip Markiewicz

Road to Nowhere

text by Daniele Capra

10.12.2020 – 1.02.2021

C+N Canepaneri is pleased to present *Road to Nowhere*, **Filip Markiewicz's** second solo show in the gallery. The exhibition, with a text by Daniele Capra, features recent works of the artist ranging from drawing to sculpture and painting to video through to more conceptual works based on words.

The title, borrowed from one of Talking Heads' most famous songs, ironically alludes to the inconclusive situation of our present day, contradictorily featuring realism and fantasy, uncertainty and predictability, meanness and altruism. At that moment an absolutely human will to move comes out, albeit towards an imprecise destination, to search for an island that has to be totally imagined, that still isn't there but it is comforting to imagine that it exists. It's a little utopia, simple and not ambitious, necessary for continuing to act.

Markiewicz's artistic practice is marked by a sophisticated approach where sociological investigation, analysis of the media, disillusion and subtle political criticism alternate with a detached, bitter taste. Styles and pop iconography, hyperbolic irony, mournful nostalgia and lucid realism pursue each other relentlessly in his works, which are often staged theatrically in exhibition spaces, thus allowing the visitor a totalising and immersive experience.

In detail, Markiewicz's painting and his drawings are inhabited by figures that determine our fates – politically, economically, ideologically and through media. Therefore, there are politicians who run the most important countries, leading bankers, the CEOs of big multinational companies and the logos that summarily describe the pervasive nature of corporations or powerful institutions, equally involved in a farce. Similarly, the key players of video games and actors in serials can be seen in a burlesque/tragic continuum in which Markiewicz highlights the predictable and boring uniformity of the dominant imagination: everything looks the same and can produce in us desire and repulsion, excitement and depression at the same time, since it is ontologically meaningless and worthless.

The artist frequently uses the written word in his practise, in the form of ambiguous or unsettling phrases, both on works on paper and on neon.

For Markiewicz, the word displays an ambiguity or error it is easy to make, sometimes sarcastically, and, at the same time, gives a sort of counter-narration with respect to the most common opinion. Thus the word has the psycho-analytically liberating function of irony and, ultimately political, dissent.

Filip Markiewicz was born in Esch-sur-Alzette (L) in 1980. His solo shows have been hosted by institutions such as the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest (RO), Kunsthalle Osnabrück in Osnabrück (D), CCA Londonderry in Derry (GB), the Casino Luxembourg Forum d'Art Contemporain in Luxembourg City (L), and the Kunsthalle Tübingen in Tübingen (D). He represented Luxembourg at the 56th Biennial in Venice. Markiewicz flanks a theatrical and musical performance route, which has led him to create shows at the Staatstheater Cottbus for the Lausitz Festival (D), Theater Basel in Basel (CH) and the Expo in Shanghai (CHN), to his work in the visual arts field.

He lives and works in Hamburg (D) and Luxembourg City.