

TANJA POL GALERIE

Veron Urdarianu
Nurses and Singles
09/09/2016 - 28/10/2016

We are pleased to present Veron Urdarianu's fourth solo exhibition at Tanja Pol Galerie. Exactly eight years ago, we opened the gallery with a show by the artist.

Veron Urdarianu, born in Bucharest in 1951, lives and works in Amsterdam. We present a series of new paintings and for the first time a group of works that the artist never before exhibited: small format collages, that serve in part as preliminary studies for his paintings, but also can be considered autonomous works all their own.

Urdarianu's figurative paintings have their own mood and logic. His strategy on image creation is often the use of metaphor or allegory. The painting ARTIST (RODEO), for example, is an allegory about the artist: the artist as a rider on a wild animal, balancing himself, seeking to come clear in his situation. This evokes not only an extreme situation, an endless challenge, but also a proud posture. The rodeo rider/artist is literally underway in the void. The picture's ground has a roof, a wall, and a floor, it is a virtually colorless, white picture, in which the finest nuances of beige, pink, and light green allude to the visual space.

The title of this exhibition, NURSES AND SINGLES, refers to the painting that is also depicted on the invitation, NURSE.

The nurse wearing an old-fashioned uniform with a bonnet, apron, and mouth-protection seems energetic, but also restful. Urdarianu is here offering a statement on the art market, whose "commercialization," to put it in simple terms, is something that he views very critically, and counters it with a small, intimate painting, a healing, a purification, indeed an allusion to catharsis.

Often, the paintings are reminiscences of the artist's experiences under the Communist regime of his Rumanian youth: the painting SINGLE depicts a record player. During the artist's youth, it was an extreme privilege to own a record player and one or two records from "the West." Being equipped in such a way entailed social capital. The portrait of an everyday object has a personal and a political dimension. And at the same time, a contemporary fetish is depicted: the record player today stands for distinction, youth culture, connoisseurship, pop. Using the means of reduction and collage, Urdarianu succeeds in his very poetic images to bring together sometimes quite contradictory references.

Veron Urdarianu's work is featured in international museums and private collections and since 1980 has held exhibitions around the world (see biography). In Munich, he became known to a wider audience with the exhibition IMAGINATION BECOMES REALITY at Sammlung Goetz in 2005.