Tarik Kiswanson

Surging

Exhibition at carlier | gebauer, Berlin
30 April - 12 June 2021

Gallery Weekend Berlin
30 April - 2 May 2021
Press release

Tarik Kiswanson | Surging
30.04.-12.06.2021
Gallery Weekend Berlin

Tarik Kiswanson’s third solo exhibition at carlier | gebauer furthers the Swedish-Palestinian artist’s recent investigations into life and death, transformation and being. In 2017, Kiswanson’s last exhibition at the gallery presented a series of suspended reflective, ever-shifting metal vessels which, by defamiliarizing our perception, also dismembered the illusion of a fixed, finite self.

Surging is attuned to a wider paradigm shift: the loss of grand anthropocentric narratives and the crisis of human singularity. A speculative act of worldbuilding, the exhibition leads into an elsewhere. In the redesigned gallery space, we arrive through a narrow entry in the main room. At first, it is unclear whether this transfixxed environment, achromatic as if bloodless, indicates an ongoing catabolic suffocation or the premises of a new birth.

It is, however, not devoid of life. Two ovoid forms, at once enigmatic and weirdly familiar, occupy the surroundings: one is nested inside a doorframe (Cradle), another perched above the opposite entrance (Nest). While their form evokes the natural world – a chrysalis or a grain – their eerie human-sized scale brings to mind a constructed shelter.

Spanning the artist’s multifaceted practice, an ensemble of works from recent series show various states of stasis. Trapped in translucent resin, a candle melts away mid-air (Respite) while fleeting, powdery charcoal drawings (The Window) display children lingering at the threshold of visibility. X-ray scans of ancient and contemporary garments – overlapping or absent – (Rising Opacity; Passing) transform scientific imagery into a poetic multiplicity or a pitch-black void (Assembled Opacity), while collages juxtapose ancient etchings of catastrophes around a central ellipsis hovering over human-made history (Seeds; Traveler).

Kiswanson’s previous works extended the transient experience of a second-generation migrant to the condition of the present-day individual: one increasingly left to navigate a set of tumultuous, global realities. In turn, Surging delineates an uncertain yet familiar shared context, one not unlike a waiting room, where beings – their heritage as much as their bodies – are left to adapt and evolve. What is born remains in transit, what takes shapes can only survive afloat.

Text by Ingrid Luquet-Gad.

Tarik Kiswanson’s work encompasses sculpture, writing, performance, drawing, sound and video works. His fundamental question is ontological: it is inscribed in philosophical research into Being as being. Notions of rootlessness, regeneration, and renewal are recurring themes in his oeuvre. Born in Halmstad, Sweden in 1986 where his family exiled from Palestine, his artistic practice evinces an engagement with the poetics of métissage: a means of writing and surviving between multiple conditions and contexts. His various bodies of work can be understood as a cosmology of related conceptual families, each exploring variations on themes like refraction, multiplication, disintegration, levitation, hybridity, and polyphony through their own distinct language.

Tarik Kiswanson, Exhibition view *Surging* at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
Tarik Kiswanson

on the wall:
Nest, 2021
Fiberglass, resin
270 x 100 x 100 cm
TKI/2021/scu/21653

on the floor:
Respite, 2021
Resin, candle
40 x 28 x 9 cm
TKI/2021/scu/21654

Exhibition view Surging at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021

carlier | gebauer
Tarik Kiswanson, Nest, 2021
Fiberglass, resin, 270 x 100 x 100 cm, TKI/2021/scu/21653
Exhibition view Surging at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
Tarik Kiswanson, Cradle, 2021
Fiberglass, resin, 140 x 31,5 x 31,5 cm, TKI/2021/scu/21766
Exhibition view Surging at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
Tarik Kiswanson, Cradle, 2021
Fiberglass, resin, 140 x 31,5 x 31,5 cm, TKI/2021/scu/21786
Tarik Kiswanson, Respite, 2021
resin, candle, 40 × 28 × 9 cm, TKI/2021/scu/21655
Tarik Kiswanson, Respite - detail, 2021
resin, candle, 40 × 28 × 9 cm, TKI/2021/scu/21655
Tarik Kiswanson, Exhibition view *Surging* at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
Tarik Kiswanson, Rising Opacity - detail, 2021, Inkjet on cotton, 400 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21660

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Tarik Kiswanson, Rising Opacity - detail, 2021, Inkjet on cotton, 400 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21656

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Tarik Kiswanson, Assembled Opacity, 2021
Inkjet on cotton, 245 x 140 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21839
Tarik Kiswanson, Passing, 2021
Inkjet on cotton, 245 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21835
Tarik Kiswanson, Passing - detail, 2021
Inkjet on cotton, 245 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21835

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Tarik Kiswanson, Exhibition view *Surging* at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
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Tarik Kiswanson, Exhibition view *Surging* at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021

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Tarik Kiswanson, Assembled Opacity, 2021
Inkjet on cotton, 245 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21834
Tarik Kiswanson, Seeds, 2021
Collage, 38 x 28 x 3,5 cm

carlier | gebauer
Tarik Kiswanson, Exhibition view *Surging* at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021
Tarik Kiswanson, The Window, 2021
Charcoal drawing on paper, 48,5 x 37,7 x 3,5 cm, TKI/2021/dra/21670
Tarik Kiswanson, Grandfather’s Blazer, 2021
Inkjet on cotton, 245 x 150 cm, TKI/2021/mix/21769
Tarik Kiswanson, The Window, 2021
Charcoal drawing on paper, 48,5 x 37,7 x 3,5 cm, TKI/2021/dra/21658

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Tarik Kiswanson, The Window, 2021
Charcoal drawing on paper, 48,5 x 37,7 x 3,5 cm, TKI/2021/dra/21659
Tarik Kiswanson, Open Window, 2021
Charcoal drawing on paper, 48,5 x 37,7 x 3,5 cm, TKI/2021/dra/21823
<p>| 1 | Tarik Kiswanson | Nest, 2021 | Fiberglass, resin | 270 x 100 x 100 cm | TKI/2021/scu/21653 | 38.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 2 | Tarik Kiswanson | Cradle, 2021 | Fiberglass, resin | 140 x 31,5 x 31,5 cm | TKI/2021/scu/21766 | 17.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 3 | Tarik Kiswanson | Respite, 2021 | Resin, candle | 40 x 28 x 9 cm | TKI/2021/scu/21655 | 12.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 4 | Tarik Kiswanson | Rising Opacity, 2021 | Inkjet on cotton | 400 x 150 cm | TKI/2021/mix/21660 | 32.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 5 | Tarik Kiswanson | Rising Opacity, 2021 | Inkjet on cotton | 400 x 150 cm | TKI/2021/mix/21656 | 32.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 6 | Tarik Kiswanson | Assembled Opacity, 2021 | Inkjet on cotton | 245 x 140 cm | TKI/2021/mix/21839 | 25.000,00 € excl. VAT |
| 7 | Tarik Kiswanson | Assembled Opacity, 2021 | Inkjet on cotton | 245 x 150 cm | TKI/2021/mix/21768 | 25.000,00 € excl. VAT |</p>
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