

Amin El Dib **Body and Soul**

Photography

Under the title 'Body and Soul' for the first time ever the Haus am Kleistpark presents an exhibition of a large selection of a thematically organized group of works by photographer Amin El Dib. The depiction of wounds and ephemerality are central features of the artist's work. His subjects are captured in a range of genres, from portraits to still-lives, from landscapes to reflections on photography itself, and what connects them all is the pictorially captured fragility of being as a fundamental part of life. The current exhibition has been curated by Dr Enno Kaufhold.

In the series 'Pictures of People and Animals' (1988-2002) Amin El Dib created portraits of people who share their lives with animals. The photographs oscillate between the everyday and the bizarre, the natural and the absurd, the humorous and the deadly serious. This portrait series makes Amin El Dib's interest in people as well as in staging abundantly clear.

With 'Weekenders' (2000-2002) Amin El Dib shattered traditional characteristics of photography by means of a transformational process and, in terms of materiality as well as aesthetics, created a new pictorial form. The artist subjected his portraits to a radical act of deconstruction by tearing the photographic paper apart or simply crumpling it up. He then took the resulting motif fragments and fashioned them anew, as in a collage, or photographed the material objects themselves. In the media-reflective series, 'Men at Work' (2006) he interacted with these re-stagings in a different way, intentionally photographing individual men's open-mouthed faces from the pages of pornographic magazines. Their transformation into black-and-white, together with the severe fragmentation and characteristic style of the rendered prints, give the images a completely distorted look. In addition to these continuous images in black-and-white there is also a large selection from two more recent groups of works, all photographed in colour. In the series 'Under Skies of Blue and Grey' (2017-2014) Amin El Dib works with the traditional idea of the landscape but refuses all glorifying stereotypes of nature. Indeed, upon closer inspection and through the series' progression the otherness reveals itself: subtle allusions allow the viewer to recognize acts of human intervention. The artist sets another example with his series entitled 'On the Fragility of Being' (2014-2016), a group of photographs of cast replicas of antique busts from the sculpture hall in Basel. Even the ancient stone sculptures made to last for eternity that the replicas take as their basis have suffered damage and, as such, bear witness to the fragility of everything here on earth. What connects the seemingly disparate groups of work is the fact that Amin El Dib refuses absolute harmony, the beautiful, in all of his photographs. To put it in terms of his portraits: he inscribes even the most beautiful face with a scowl.

Amin El Dib was born in Cairo in 1961, the son of a German mother and an Egyptian father. Beginning in 1966 he grew up in Duisburg. After finishing his architectural studies in Berlin, he made his way to the field of artistic photography.

Since 2001 he has been a member of the German Photographic Academy and has realized numerous exhibitions. His works can be found in many important public collections, including the Berlinische Galerie, the Folkwang Museum in Essen, the Kunstbibliothek/Staatliche Museen of Berlin, and the Stiftung Mortizburg in Halle. Amin El Dib has lived in Switzerland since 2003.

Guided tour with Enno Kaufhold and Amin El Dib, Sunday, 12 May 2019 at 4 pm.

Book presentation, 'Von der Brüchigkeit des Seins' (On the Fragility of Being), with Rolf Sachsse and Amin El Dib, Thursday, 23 May 2019 at 7 pm.

Opening/Vernissage Tuesday, 9 April 2019, 7pm, Introduction by Dr Enno Kaufhold

Exhibition dates: 10.4. – 2.6.2019

HAUS am KLEISTPARK, Grunewaldstraße 6–7, 10823 Berlin-Schöneberg

Thurs through Sun 11 – 6pm, Free entry, www.hausamkleistpark.de, www.amineldib.ch

Information: Gallery director Barbara Esch Marowski, 030/90277- 6964, esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de

An exhibition by the Department of Kunst, Kultur, Museen Tempelhof-Schöneberg



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©Amin El Dib, from: *Von der Brüchigkeit des Seins*, 2016



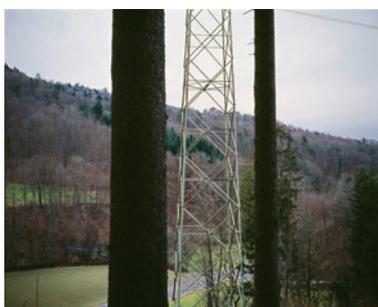
©Amin El Dib, from: *Von der Brüchigkeit des Seins*, 2015



©Amin El Dib, from: *Weekenders*, 2000



©Amin El Dib, from: *Bilder von Menschen und Tieren*, 1996



©Amin El Dib, from: *Under Skies of Blue and Grey*, 2010



©Amin El Dib, from: *Under Skies of Blue and Grey*, 2010



©Amin El Dib, from: *United Tongues*, 2007



©Amin El Dib, from: *Men at Work*, 2006



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