

Nosbaum Reding

Luxembourg | Bruxelles

OWN WORLD

05.12.2022 - 09.03.2022

Artist

Wawrzyniec Tokarski



OWN WORLD

Exhibition View

Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, 2022

Gallery Nosbaum Reding

2 + 4, rue Wiltheim L-2733 Luxembourg / T (+352) 28 11 25 1 / reding@nosbaumreding.com

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Wawrzyniec Tokarski

Join us on Thursday 12 May for the opening of Wawrzyniec Tokarski's first solo show in Belgium "OWN WORLD" at Nosbaum Reding | Bruxelles, in partnership with Malteser International.

The exhibition will be on view from 12 May to 3 September 2022.

Tokarski's work is characterised by a combination of various images from the media or video games, coupled with a world of signs and symbols, slogans. Thus a precise pictorial language from pop culture conveys a political or social message that is as disturbing in its direct and frontal aspect as in its sentimental and imaginary evocations.

The Polish artist, born in Gdansk in 1968 and living in Berlin, presents a work strongly anchored in contemporary culture. The mixture of styles taken from our everyday life challenges us and offers us a new reading of our environment.

This exhibition is organised in partnership with Malteser International, which is currently providing considerable support to the Ukrainian people.

Nosbaum Reding and Wawrzyniec Tokarski, an artist who has been closely involved in the Ukrainian scene since its inception, wish to participate in the aid to the civilians. Together, they have pledged to donate a third of their sales to the organisation to support their efforts.

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Caption: Wawrzyniec Tokarski, "Own world" (detail), 2015, acrylic on fabric, 140 x 140 cm and "Xtinct" (detail), 2022, gouache on linen, 140 x 150 cm.

Photo: ©Wawrzyniec Tokarski

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The title of this exhibition is taken from the text into the work «We are living in our own World». By omitting all but the last two words, Tokarski deliberately creates an ambiguity; Own World begs the question « Whose world? » « Who owns the world? » And just like that the artist brings to the fore a major contradiction that is played out on a daily basis; on the one hand we are self-involved living in our own little worlds, and on the other hand, most of the time, we are quite happy to pretend the world is nothing to do with us - we disown the world.

In this context Tokarski's personal concerns with the environment loom large.

Juxtaposition and irony are often self-contained within the works, for instance Never Mind is an ingenious, and amusing, subversion of Baroque vanitas painting, but they also play out across the exhibition space. In his Galaxy Sparrows and Deep Field paintings we get a moment of infinity that does nothing and goes nowhere in the unspoiled serenity of outer-space. This jars visually with the 6m2 worth of car in the painting Going Nowhere in which the artist evokes the absurdity of sitting in gridlocked traffic, polluting the atmosphere and going nowhere - except oblivion if we continue to poison the planet we live on as is made abundantly clear in his work EXTINCT.

The exhibition is primarily concerned with the environment, but of course there are poignant references to the humanitarian cause for which we are gathered here with

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Malteser International. In the Field, Blue Yellow and Refugees Welcome may adopt the vocabulary of mass-produced slogans but we must not forget that they are paintings - unique pieces. Not mass-produced flyers or memes to be circulated and discarded. Each one is an art-object, beautifully and meticulously made, whose permanence reflects the permanence of the messages the artist puts forward in defence of the world and humanity itself.

Tokarski is an artist who tries his best to live by the environmental and humanitarian concerns knowing he might not be met every time. Together with the Gallery Nosbaum Reding he has chosen to donate a third of the profits from the sales of his works to the Ukraine crisis via Malteser International.

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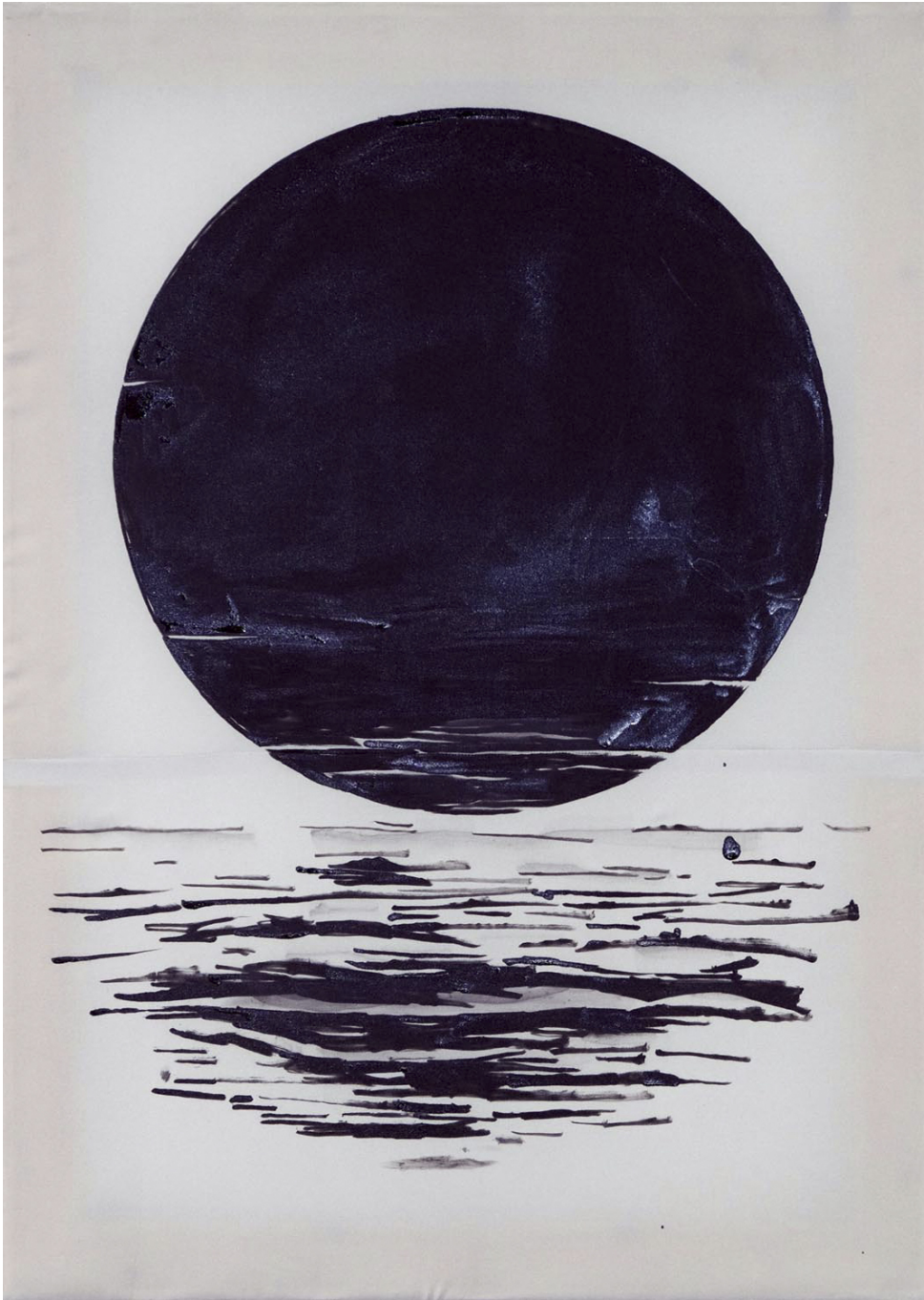
Globe (continental drift), 2019
acrylic on torn and dirty fabric
78.74 x 66.93 in (200 x 170 cm)

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the advent of an abstract threat, 2013
Acrylique sur tissu
27.56 x 19.69 in (70 x 50 cm)

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Going Nowhere, 2021
Watercolour on fabric
78.74 x 125.98 in (200 x 320 cm)

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Europe (continental drift), 2019
acrylic on cotton
78.74 x 78.74 in (200 x 200 cm)

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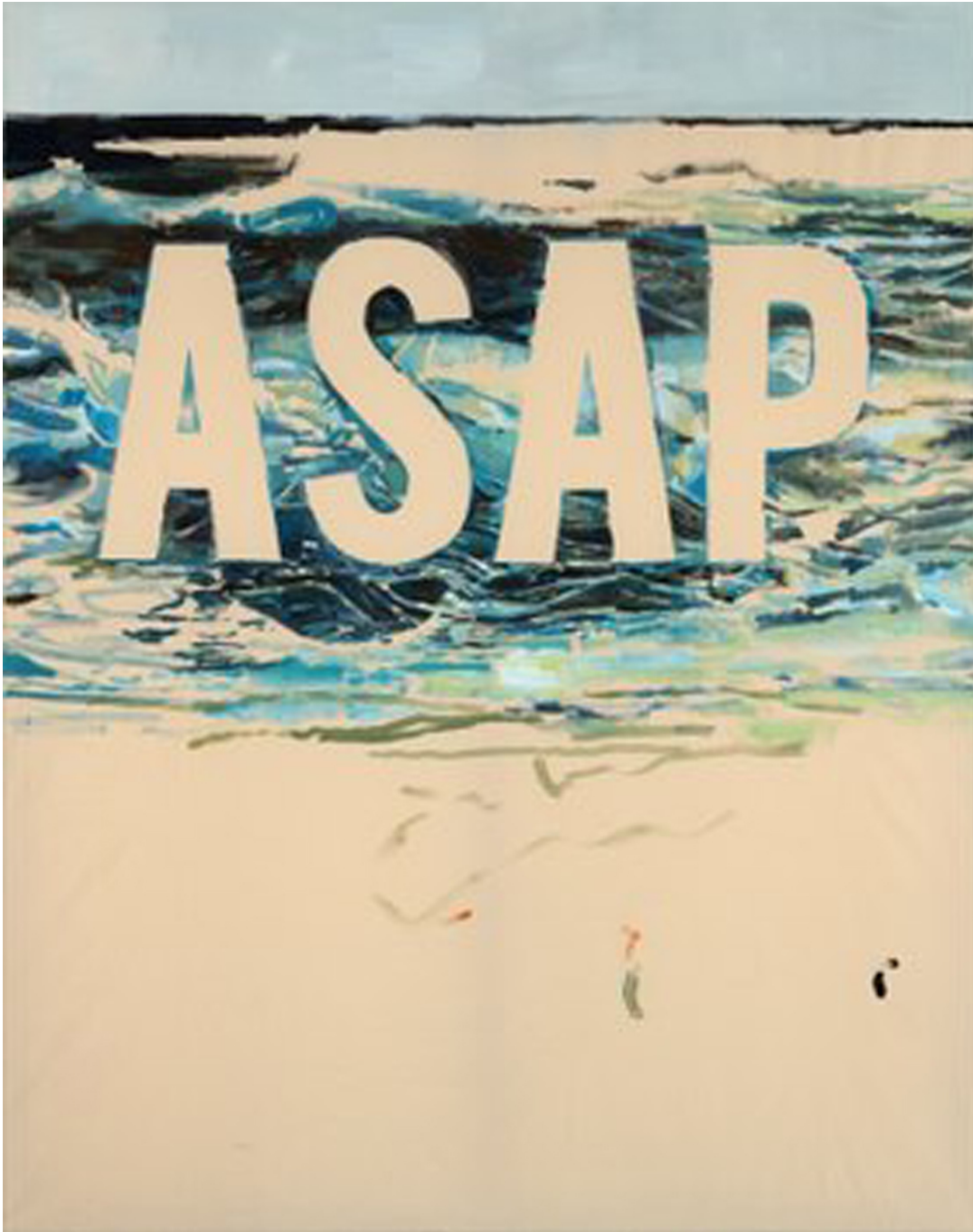
OCCUPY, 2022
Acrylique sur tissu
51.18 x 89.76 in (130 x 228 cm)

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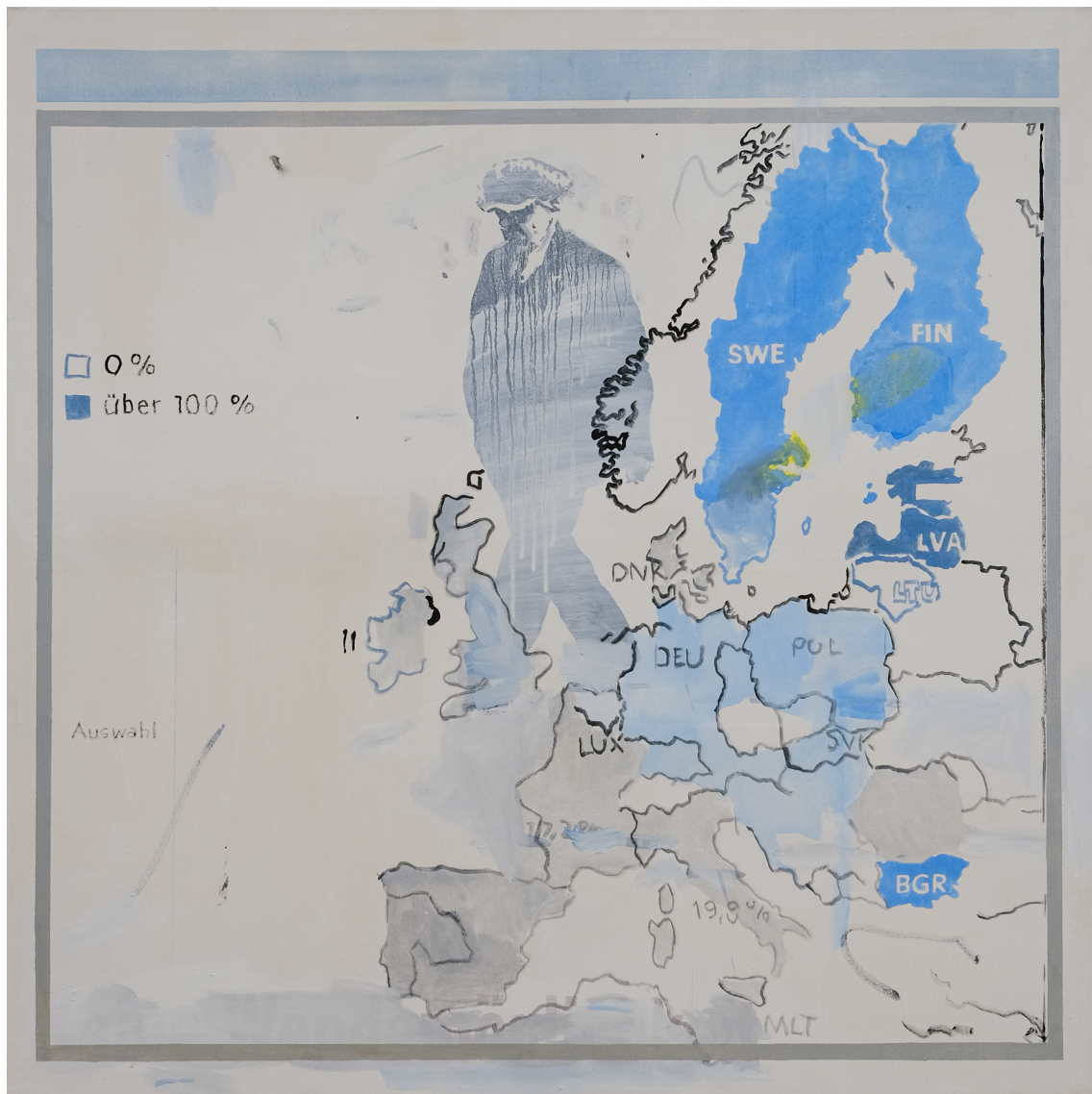
As in the Beginning Now and Forever, 2018
Acrylic on fabric
78.74 x 78.74 in (200 x 200 cm)

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ASAP, 2021
Acrylic on cotton
74.8 x 74.8 in (190 x 150 cm)

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Dependence, 2015
Acrylic on cotton
55.12 x 55.12 in (140 x 140 cm)

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It's like this, 2017
Acrylic on fabric
55.12 x 47.24 in (140 x 120 cm)

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Missing Elite, 2017
acrylic on fabric
55.12 x 55.12 in (140 x 140 cm)

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Recyclable, 2017
Gouache on cotton
55.12 x 55.12 in (140 x 140 cm)

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Drop Splash, 2021
Watercolour on cotton
55.12 x 47.24 in (140 x 120 cm)

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Reflection, 2020
Gouache on linen
55.12 x 43.31 in (140 x 110 cm)

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Emergence or Decline, 2021
Watercolour on fabric
55.12 x 55.12 in (140 x 140 cm)

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Blue-Yellow, 2022
Acrylic on fabric
47.24 x 110.24 in (120 x 280 cm)

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In the Field, 2022
Gouache on linen
66.93 x 59.06 in (170 x 150 cm)

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In the Field, 2022
Gouache on linen
66.93 x 51.18 in (170 x 130 cm)

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Galaxy Sparrows, 2020
Gouache on linen
43.31 x 37.4 in (110 x 95 cm)

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Stump, 2022
Gouache on linen
23.62 x 19.69 in (60 x 50 cm)

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ASAP (flow), 2021
Watercolour on paper
49.21 x 35.43 in (125 x 90 cm)

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ASAP (blue), 2021
Watercolour on paper
49.21 x 35.43 in (125 x 90 cm)

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I know it's complicated but..., 2022
Acrylique on cotton
78.74 x 118.11 in (200 x 300 cm)

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Just, 2019
Acrylic on fabric
37.4 x 33.86 in (95,5 x 86,5 cm)