

kahan art space Vienna

Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation, Vienna

Biljana Đurđević

Good Life

September 8th – November 28th, 2021

Große Pfargasse 7 / Große Sperlgasse 37

Wednesday – Saturday: 10 am – 7 pm

1020 Wien

The Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation is pleased to present an exhibition by artist Biljana Đurđević (1973, Belgrade) at Kahán Art Space Vienna.

The works of Biljana Đurđević examine the state of human existence under the conditions of violent systems. Her paintings, animations and sound works, reduced to the essential, refer to the contemporary state of exploitative working practices worldwide and those who might only dream of a “good life”. In the midst of current social and economic changes, the artist’s exhibition in the Kahán Art Space spotlights the rise of the gig economy and the globalisation of markets, touches on themes of pollution, de-population, and the endemic exploitations of people in her native Balkan region. She holds an MA and PhD from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, and was also a guest lecturer at Parsons the New School for Design in New York from 2010 to 2011. Her work has been extensively exhibited internationally.

The exhibition “Good Life” will be on view additionally at the Kahán Art Space Budapest from 02. – 23.12.2021.

The Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Biljana Đurđević in Austria. Alternating between garishly lightened, clinical interiors, vague figures and sinister industrial scenes, the paintings and animations of Đurđević seek to portray the shaky underpinnings of a society in which the promise of success means nothing more than survival of the fittest.

Đurđević works spotlight the risks inherent in the breakdown of measures that guard over social well-being of a population. In midst of current social and economic changes, the rise of the gig economy and the globalisation of markets, her exhibition in the Kahán Art Space Vienna touches on themes of pollution, de-population, and the endemic exploitations of people in her native Balkan region. Her images, reminiscent of the bleak scenes familiar from Orwell's novel 1984,

are translated into a series of realistic yet dreamlike scenes that play on contemporary tensions, and in particular, the modern anxieties simmering in the wake of technological revolution following the deregulation of neo-liberal economics pursued by politics and international corporations.

Biljana Đurđević

Biljana Đurđević (b. 1973, Belgrade, Serbia) received MA and PhD from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade in 1997 with a dissertation entitled *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* or *Yearning for Love in the Dreams* in 2013. Đurđević is one of the most important contemporary artists in Serbia. In addition to her skill in painting, Đurđević's works are charged with anxiety, tension, fear and conflict, inspired alternately by great paintings of classical art or her own inner turmoil. Recent solo shows include: *Instrument of Activity*, shown in the Braverman Gallery, Tel Aviv, Goethe Institute, Belgrade and the Gallery of Contemporary Art, Smederevo, Serbia; *Dark is the Forest*, the Čolaković Legacy, Belgrade; *Living in Oblivion*, Museet Moderna, Stockholm; and *Aesthetics of Violence*, Museum of Art, Haifa, Israel. She was also a guest lecturer at Parsons the New School for Design from 2010 to 2011.

The Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation

Located in Budapest, Vienna, and Tuscany, the Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation supports the activities of young, Central and Eastern European artists with a focus of liberal values and democratic rights. The Budapest project space supports artists at the beginning of their career, while Vienna hosts a program of exhibitions and talks on current social, economic and political topics. Finally, the foundation hosts an annual artist-in-residence program in Tuscany, Italy. The Foundation also supports the university studies of socially disadvantaged young adults in Hungary by providing academic scholarships and tuition fee grants to disadvantaged students.