



Matthias Franz | *Stageboy*, 2021

**GRIMM is proud to announce the gallery's representation of emerging painter Matthias Franz (b. 1984 in Ilmenau, DE).**

Commencing the representation, GRIMM will feature two new paintings by Franz in its presentation at Frieze London (October 13 - 17, 2021); closely followed by Franz's inclusion in the forthcoming group exhibition at GRIMM New York, *Condition Humaine*, on view from October 28 to December 4 in the gallery's recently-opened Tribeca space 54 White Street. The artist's first solo exhibition with GRIMM will take place at the gallery's Keizersgracht space in Amsterdam in March 2022.

*"I'm extremely proud to start working with Matthias, his work is complex, thought provoking and he has a distinct technical approach to painting,"* said Jorg Grimm, owner of GRIMM. *"He is a great addition to the gallery program and his work complements our roster where his paintings will be seen in the context of his peers and predecessors spanning multiple generations."*

Throughout his early career, Franz has developed a captivating style of organic representation where viewpoints in his paintings are refracted, obscured, and through this brought closer to life. Directly confronting the complexity of contemporary existence, he approaches the medium of painting as a venture in witnessing and recording his time.

In his paintings, muted earth tones are contrasted with shadowy outlines and full primary hues that comprise invented architectural spaces or uncanny perspectives. The pulling and pushing tension within his brushstrokes captures the sensation of heavy, enlarged forms giving way to more delicate arrangements, infused with the imbalanced weight and proportions one would find in a dream.

Franz is careful to distance the viewer's perspective from the interior of his paintings. He describes this process as *"clinging to the inherent depth and secret of things."* Buried within his images the viewer searches for the face of a figure or the contours of the skyline. Amongst the seemingly unconnected locations pictured throughout his oeuvre he depicts the environment of the academy, onstage performances, and beds full of dreaming bodies. Throughout these scenes, the motif of collective longing is projected into a broader social context, as are suggestions of detachment, inaction, and rebelliousness.

The artist's early influences include American painters such as Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden, while he embraces the expressive grandeur inherited from his continental European predecessors and contemporaries, German painters such as Martin Kippenberger, Albert Oehlen, and Daniel Richter.

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**Matthias Franz** | *City (2)*, 2020

Courtesy of the Artist and GRIMM, Amsterdam | New York.  
Collection Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL)

### **About the artist**

Matthias Franz (b. 1984 in Ilmenau, DE) lives and works in Vienna (AT). He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna in 2019, where he was a student of Daniel Richter. His work is part of the Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, TX (US) and The Roberts Institute of Art, London (UK), Kunstmuseum The Hague (NL) and numerous private collections.

### **About the gallery**

GRIMM was founded in Amsterdam in 2005. Since its establishment, the gallery has been committed to promoting and supporting emerging and mid-career artists who work in a diverse range of media. Representing thirty international artists, the gallery has two spaces in Amsterdam, and one in New York. GRIMM recently expanded to a new 6,000 square foot gallery space in Tribeca, New York in 2021.

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