

WILLEM WEISMANN FLASHBACK CONT'D

GRIMM Frans Halsstraat 26

Oct 19 – Nov 18, 2017

"Weismann's paintings can be viewed as some kind of archaeology of contemporary society and human progress. [...] We have in Willem Weismann an artist who clearly delights in the absurdity of human existence. Comic books, video games and cinema play an important part of his work, the odd and the bizarre, the cast offs and the outcasts. We have symbolic objects, signs and signals to another realm that lies under the broken pavements and points to a world in constant flux and change.

– Ben Austin

GRIMM is proud to announce the first solo exhibition with Willem Weismann in Amsterdam.

Weismann (NL, 1977) presents a suite of new paintings based on the structure of a house. The title *Flashback cont'd*, written in screenplay abbreviation, refers to the narrative technique used in film that takes viewers back in time and supplies background and context for current events. Simultaneously, the title refers to the construed nature of these paintings and the importance of narrative and time embedded in them.

The works are inspired by a wide range of sources from comic books, video games and cinema to ideas by historians such as Hayden White (US, 1928). White claims history has to be brought back to a narrative in order for it to become historic and thereby forgoes its objectivity. The structure of the house is inspired by the method of loci, which is part of an ancient out-of-use technique called the art of memory. Here a mental image of a building was used and decorated with various objects and elements that were encoded with what needed to be remembered. By roaming the building in one's mind, one could then remember by association. Weismann builds up his paintings in the same way and fills rooms with scattered symbolic objects arranged as part of a larger puzzle.

With this imaginary house Weismann explores the possibilities of painting as a store of meaning. One that runs parallel to other forms of physical and virtual archives and compares the ways in which we see, store and make sense of the information that enters our lives every day.



Willem Weismann | *New dawn* | 2017 | detail

Discovering what lies behind a facade, or beneath our feet beyond the smooth surface of the pavement, is a central motif in Weismann's work. The works that comprise this exhibition have the viewer walk through absurd urban environments; various rooms cluttered with debris of contemporary life and the excess of consumerism. Bathed in a beautiful light, these vibrant scenes in chromatic hues are at once eerily familiar and unsettling, confronting us with the direct aftermath of our existence.

About the artist

Willem Weismann (Eindhoven, 1977) has been living in London (UK) since 2003. He studied at ArtEZ Institute for the Arts, Arnhem (NL) from 1997 to 2002 and Goldsmiths College, London (UK) from 2003 to 2004. He was awarded with the East London Painting Prize in 2015. Weismann has had solo exhibitions at the Zabłudowicz Collection, London (UK); Cabin Gallery, London (UK); The Nunnery gallery, London (UK); Galeria Quadrado Azul, Porto (PT); and Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Arnhem (NL). Recent group exhibitions include *Summer Show*, Turps Gallery, London (UK) and *Secret European Studio* at ArthouSE1, London (UK). In 2018 Weismann will participate in a group exhibition at the Dordrechts Museum (NL).

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Willem Weismann | *How does your garden grow* | 2017

About the gallery

GRIMM is an Amsterdam and New York based contemporary art gallery representing over twenty-five international artists and estates. Since its establishment in 2005, it has been the gallery's mission to represent and support the work of emerging and mid-career artists of all media. The gallery currently operates from three exhibition spaces: two in Amsterdam (NL) and one in New York City (US).

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