

„In the pictures, I create summer in winter“

The painter Kaikaoss is displaying in Bremervörde. Opening on Sunday

KERSTIN LORENZ BREMERVÖRDE: The stations of his exhibitions can be read like a globe-trotter's itinerary:

Minsk, Los Angeles, Paris, Arlon, Bremervörde, Vienna. The Afghan painter Kaikaoss Kamal is now showing works from his „painted picture worlds“ in the Bachmann Museum of Bremervörde. In this, the organizers of the series „Kunst an der Oste“ of the culture circle and home county have managed to introduce a top-class artist. „First contact was established by the painter Jan Leseberg, who has also displayed in Bremervörde. He made me curious about the Bachmann Museum,“ says Kaikaoss.

Opening of the exhibition begins on Sunday at 2 p.m. On Sunday, September 26, it happens: The artist will meet his audience at 2 p.m. for personal conversation in the rooms of the Bachmann Museum on the occasion of his exhibition's opening. Following this, the performance „Emotions in motion – Burka meets art“ by the motion and dance artist Rebecca Bristow is planned. Alex Kozmidi from Berlin will be responsible for the musical setting.

Kaikaoss' almost photo-realistically painted pictures seem to be colorful and convey a clear message at first sight. But every following glance raises more questions during intensive viewing. The artist plays with the viewer's perception in a clever manner: He coaxes him right into the turbulent goings-on in his pictures to then lead him to conclusions through profound surprises. The superficial glance at the work of art is followed by the philosophical thoughtfulness of fantasy, like an unexpected gift. **The artist, born in 1965 grew up in Kabul** Kaikaoss Kamal Ali was born in Kabul in 1965, grew up as the son of an economist and a teacher in intellectual circles of Afghanistan's capital city. At the early age of eleven he already struck the teachers at school with his talent. His family introduced him to art in a childfriendly manner by first making private painting lessons possible for him. Later, his artistic development acquired concrete characteristics in the national drawing school.

A scholarship brought the young painter to the Academy of Arts in Minsk, Belarus, where he successfully ended his studies with the degree Master of Arts. This is also where his works were first displayed. Back in Afghanistan in 1990, Kaikaoss, who, in the meantime, was 25 years old, encountered the political drama, consequences of war and rivalry between Mujahideen and Taliban militia in his home country.

At first, the young artist was forced into hiding; in 1991 he fled his homeland and has since lived in Germany, where he began to study art again only the third year after his arrival. As a resident of Cologne by choice, Kaikaoss processes what he has seen and experienced, the eternal chaos of war in his ravaged and barely rutable home country, in his pictures, inspired by memories and emotions. Kaikaoss artistically confronts the horrors of political persecution and the disappointments with a mechanism of turning things around. „I create summer in winter,“ says Kaikaoss. This personal interpretation of his past can always be found positively in his works, full of symbolism and in intensive coloring, oriental, vividly fresh. For in his heart he remains Afghan, says Kaikaoss. „However, I'm not fixed on anything while painting. I transpose themes and motifs that interest me at the moment. I switch techniques in my works, show the world how I see and perceive it. Strangely, everyone who comes close to my work understands that,“ says Kaikaoss. In a meditative submission he paints himself into his picture worlds in a manner for which he has no definite role-model, although stylistically, his works are comparable to the surrealism of René Magritte or Salvador Dalí. „Every era is exciting to me,“ says the artist, while the great masters like Michelangelo or da Vinci fascinate him. With an iron discipline which has characterized his demeanor ever since his studies in Russia, he works on his pieces in his Cologne studio.

„I begin in the morning and paint all day, often parallel on many pictures at the same time,“ says Kaikaoss. He has never counted his works, but if there is room, Kaikaoss wants to show 42 paintings in Bremervörde.

The exhibition will be in Bremervörde's Bachmann Museum, 1 Amtsallee, from September 26 until October 24. The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

During the opening and on Sundays, the museum's café will also be open to visitors.

