

Realities and Representations

Forms of Abstraction/Abstracted forms
Works by Alex Coetzee and Olaf Bischoff

Origin Art presents a new exhibition by two innovative mid-career artists working, in different mediums, with ideas about abstraction. The exhibition presents an interplay between form, composition, colour and material within each artist's body of work. But more than this, it offers a view between each body of work in the gallery as two- and three-dimensional reflections on abstraction and its propensity to foreground and recontextualise materiality, object choices, colour and the relationship to representation itself.

Cape Town-based Alex Coetzee is trained as both an artist and an architect, from which diverse training he has grown an interest in formalism. He presents this in the current body of playful sculptural work as relationships between geometric form, colour, and figurative association in ways that are both playful and precise.

Bischoff has exhibited locally with much success for over a decade. He attributes the inspiration for this series of abstracted geometric landscapes to an hallucinogenic response to a childhood fever, where he perceived shape and colour in Escher-like abstracted forms. Bischoff appropriates and plays with work and ideas in the history of European mid-century abstract painting, making intertextuality or at least post-modern referencing a part of the current body of work.

What both artists have in common is a commitment to playfulness and experimentation in their use of abstraction as an approach – whether in the use of colour, composition, self-referentiality or form itself. The interplay between the sculptural work and the paintings is thus important in the staging of the show – not necessarily in terms of a weighty reflection on abstraction as an artistic mode or in negative opposition to figuration, but in the mode of possibility, permutation and as a set of formal or geometrically meditative objects.

- James Sey



ALEX COETZEE

Little Prince, 2023

Acrylic, fiberglass & water-based resin over EPS foam

136 x 58 x 58 cm

ZAR 35,000



ALEX COETZEE
Tragic Aunt, 2023
Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam
51 x 25 x 27 cm
ZAR 18,000



ALEX COETZEE

Tracksuit Boy, 2023

Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam

48 x 32 x 24 cm

ZAR 18,000



ALEX COETZEE
Only Child, 2023
Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam
52 x 28 x 21 cm
ZAR 18,000



ALEX COETZEE

Shabby Neighbour, 2023

Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam

63 x 23 x 22 cm

ZAR 18,000



ALEX COETZEE

Fat Rat, 2023

Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam

31 x 34 x 23 cm

ZAR 15,000



ALEX COETZEE

Major Meltdown, 2023

Acrylic, fibreglass & water-based resin over EPS foam

50 x 31 x 24 cm

ZAR 18,000



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 3, 2023
Oil on board
48.5 x 48.5 cm
Framed: 52 x 52 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 5, 2023
Oil on board
48.5 x 48.5 cm
Framed: 52 x 52 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 4, 2023
Oil on board
48.5 x 48.5 cm
Framed: 52 x 52 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF

Napoleon Crossing the Alps (Jacques Louis David, 1801), 2023

Oil on canvas

98 x 98 cm

Framed: 102 x 102 cm

ZAR 45,000



OLAF BISSCHOFF

Impossible Architecture 2, 2023

Oil on board

48.5 x 48.5 cm

Framed: 52 x 52 cm

ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 1, 2023
Oil on board
48.5 x 48.5 cm
Framed: 52 x 52 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 11, 2023
Oil on board
48 x 48 cm
Framed: 51 x 51 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 10, 2023
Oil on board
48 x 48 cm
Framed: 51 x 51 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 9, 2023
Oil on board
48 x 48 cm
Framed: 51 x 51 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF

Impossible Architecture 8, 2023

Oil on board

48 x 48 cm

Framed: 51 x 51 cm

ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 7, 2023
Oil on board
48 x 48 cm
Framed: 51 x 51 cm
ZAR 18,500



OLAF BISSCHOFF
Impossible Architecture 6, 2023
Oil on board
48 x 48 cm
Framed: 51 x 51 cm
ZAR 18,500