

Alexander Basil (b.1997, Arkhangelsk, Russia) currently lives and works between Düsseldorf and Vienna. Basil has studied at The Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf and The Academy of Fine Art, Vienna under Professors Elizabeth Peyton, Daniel Richter, Kirsi Mikkola and Tomma Abts.

With a prodigious attention to drawing as the basis of his practice, Basil's compositions are constructed from exaggerated flat planes infused with heightened details of textiles, anatomical elements such as bruises, body hair and facial features, alongside various thematic objects.

The concept of seeing and *to be seen* is a frequent thematic element of many of Basil's paintings. Predominantly focussing on self portraiture within various iterations of the domestic space, his compositions regularly include objects such as mirrors, water, glasses, mobile phones; all of which hold both literal and figurative connotations of reflections both of our physical selves and our perceived identity. There is a vulnerability within this, as Basil's portrayal of his figures conveys a heightened sense of exposure, devoid of flattery and in an almost exaggerated unidealistic manner. Beyond this, the objects and mis-en-scene depicted in the compositions explore the banality of domestic environments, laptops, computer games, energy drinks and laundry equipment create the antithesis of a mythologized artistic studio context and instead transcend into an at times claustrophobic comment on the attachment to ones environment.

For these introspective compositions, Basil oftentimes employs the use of multiple self-portraits into a variety of narrative characters and reflections on the self. The figures often interact with one another creating a dissected depiction of the interior psychology that explores introspection in a layered manner through both its pleasures and isolation.

Basil's previous solo exhibitions include: 'The problem I did not consider', NEVVEN Gallery, Gothenburg, 2022; 'Entourage', Galerie Robert Grunenberg, Berlin, 2022; 'Claustrophobia', Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin, 2021; 'Alexander Basil', Galerie Kandlhofer, Vienna, 2021; 'Alexander Basil', curated by Kirsi Mikkola, Salon Dahlmann | Miettinen Collection, Berlin, 2020.

Basil was the 2020 recipient of The Art Association for the Rhineland and Westphalia/ The Foundation for Art and Culture of the Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf travel grant.