

## The shade grey

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Martin Eder's works are a mix of sensual eroticism and unsettling personifications of human desires.



Courtesy Galerie Eigen+Art / Hauser & Wirth

The question of how to represent something dark in the midst of something beautiful has been a constant preoccupation for Martin Eder, and a persistent motif in his practice. At times this German artist has delved into the territory of the abject in his painting, deliberately interfacing the border between sensual eroticism and unsettling, even disturbing, personifications of human desires.

According to Thomas Mann, "Solitude produces originality, bold and astonishing beauty, poetry. But solitude also produces perverseness, the disproportionate, the absurd and the forbidden."

And Eder is adept at creating fantastical worlds. At first glance they may appear to be luxuriant, dreamy visions, but closer inspection usually reveals them to be dystopian nightmares; edgy, ugly and dysfunctional

playgrounds that have become prisons for their protagonists. Whatever the situation though, the environment Eder creates is always consistently believable.

"As a teenager I was fascinated by the glitter balls of local discos," he reveals. These moments served as a means of escape for him, where he could focus on the music, the refraction of the light on the people in the room and the throng of bodies. This short time period became a world in itself, an alternate reality that the young Eder could inhabit. The artist is still fascinated by quantum physicist Hugh Everett III's proposal that parallel universes are created every time we make a decision.

Though the paintings have a definite beauty, as is to be expected of the keen-eyed, thought-provoking Eder, all is not what it seems in these visions. Look closely and you will discover that an intruder has broken into Paradise and darkness has crept albeit silently into its ecosystem.

"Those paintings were made to save the world. They have their origins in the purest forms of depression and joy to live at the same time," he says.

His first solo exhibition *Monsters of Silence* will be held at Galerie Isa from December 5 to January 24, 2013.