

ÖZGÜR KAR STORAGE DRAMA

→ 1 Holywell Lane

London EC2A 3ET

08 October - 10 November 2021

Emalin is pleased to present *STORAGE DRAMA*, a solo exhibition of new works by Turkish artist Özgür Kar. This is the artist's first exhibition with the gallery.

Death with clarinet, Death with flute, and Death with the little bell (all 2021) are three sculptures entangled together within a non-linear script, score and space. Time slows down as repetition forges existential dread from a trivial phrase, language picked up from online exchanges ('You either get the vibe or you don't'). Between the silences, the woodwind players improvise trills of the *diabolus in musica* or Devil's Interval, a tritone classed as a dissonance in Western music from the early Middle Ages and historically used to evoke foreboding or morbidity. The direct reference to The Danse Macabre is drawn from medieval manuscripts, where skeletons begin their dance by playing folk instruments in ossuaries – buildings or cases containing the bones of anonymous masses in times of plague. In *STORAGE DRAMA*, the medieval archetypes of *Biblia pauperum* are blown out and entombed to full-screen proportions, mediating death through a 4K screen: our morbid anxieties eternally looping.

Kar's exhibitions function as scenes from theatre pieces, meditative and disjointed. Stoic in their contemplation, his minimally animated drawings are set in imperceptible feedback loops turning videos into sculptures confined in the screen's rigid edge. Beyond the camp-ness of macabre, or the grotesque anxiety of death juxtaposed with cartoonish figures, the theatricality of Kar's work is set in tonal displays of contemporary existentialism.

WORKS LIST

Death with clarinet, 2021

4K video with sound 15mins loop

75" Samsung TV, custom flightcase, media player, speaker

Dimensions variable

(KAROZ-2021004)

Death with flute, 2021

4K video with sound 15mins loop

75" Samsung TV, custom flightcase, media player, speaker

Dimensions variable

(KAROZ-2021003)

Death with the little bell, 2021

4K video with sound 15mins loop

75" Samsung TV, custom flightcase, media player, speaker

Dimensions variable

(KAROZ-2021005)

Özgür Kar (b. 1992, Ankara, TR) lives and works in Amsterdam. He is a graduate of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at Kunstverein Gartenhaus, Vienna (2021); Édouard Montassut, Paris (2020); UKS, Oslo (2019); and Taylor Macklin, Zurich (2017). Recent group exhibitions include CAC Brétigny (2020); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2020); and Watermill Center, New York (2019).

MACABRE, Kar's first solo exhibition at a French institution, is currently on view at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris until 24 January 2022.