

EN
press release

exhibition **I. S. Kalter | Yana Tsegay**
June 2 – July 22, 2023

Wednesday – Saturday 1 – 7 pm and by appointment

events Thursday, June 1, 6 – 9 pm | Opening reception
Sunday, July 2, tbc | SUNDAY OPEN by INDEX

press preview For a preview of the show and meeting with the artists please contact the gallery.

text Mountains is pleased to announce a duo show by Tel Aviv-based artist and curator I. S. Kalter and Berlin and Frankfurt-based artist Yana Tsegay, bringing into dialogue new painting and photography works by the two artists that both share a deep interest in narratives about human existence.

Odium (the intense feeling of disgust and hatred towards someone or something senseless, demur and horrible) is the inaugural showcase of **I. S. Kalter** in Berlin, exhibiting two exemplars of his practice. This display of works includes six new paintings from *Flesh Works* – an ongoing series of art objects depicting the atmosphere of congealment.

Alongside those six paintings, the curatorial object *Entering a Hole Without Knowing Whither III* (2023) is presented – a galvanized diamond fence, featuring a cut-out hole, which alludes the viewer to a transgressive moment. This is the third iteration of that specific 'curatorial object' – a particular concept and term coined by Kalter, to define the curatorial practice as an artistic medium.

Yana Tsegay understands the cave as a speculative canvas and as an intersection of painting and cultural history in which notions of primordality are challenged. In her practice the cave is entered speculatively as a place of unlearning and reinvention. Her engagement with cave painting began with the series *Cave Paintings* (2017, ongoing) and continues with the new series *Giant Tracks* (2023) to the present day.

With the white painted frame, as well as with the inscription of a museum descriptive text into the painting, Tsegay makes the museum display format an integral part of the painting. Working with museum exhibition displays and spaces is part of her transformative practice. Here she asks herself: what concepts of culture are inscribed in these spaces? How can the artist create moments of displacement and transform settings? Tsegay aims to reclaim the spaces of museums, palaces, huts, by also working as a performer or with the format of artistic intervention.

In her photo performance *A Natural History Of* (2023) Yana Tsegay moves through the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Frankfurt am Main. The leather gloves are an important element with which she visualises herself and becomes aware of her body. The body begins to move differently than usual and interacts, poses and presents itself with the specimens. Through direct eye contact, the viewers are intentionally or unintentionally included in her work, while she plays with moments of self-portrayal as well as objectification in equal measure.

bios

I. S. Kalter (b. 1986) resides in Tel Aviv-Yafo. His works have recently been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions, including Art Düsseldorf, DE (2023); Documenta XV, Kassel, DE (2022); Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund, DE (2022); Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod, IL (2022); ZONA MISTA, London, UK (2022); Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, IL (2021); CCA - The Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv-Yafo, IL (2020); Art Basel, Basel, CH (2019); Placement Produit, Paris, FR (2019), among others. Since 2017 I. S. Kalter runs the nomadic exhibition space Ventilator.

While I. S. Kalter's *Odium* presentation is shown at Mountains, Berlin, *I. S. Kalter: Traumnovelle* will be exhibited in Gold + Beton, Cologne, through July 2023, and is accompanied by a catalogue featuring texts by curators Ory Dessau and Rebekka Seubert.

Yana Tsegay (b. 1991) lives and works in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin. Her recent solo and group exhibitions include Moltkerei Werkstatt, Cologne, DE (2023, upcoming); Kunstverein Friedberg, Friedberg, DE (2023); Basis Projektraum, Frankfurt, DE (2022); Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, DE (2021); Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, DE (2020); Mountains, Berlin, DE (2019); The Reference, Frankfurt, DE (2019); CLB Aufbauhaus, Berlin, DE (2017). Performances by Yana Tsegay were shown at Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, DE (2020); Mountains, Berlin, DE (2019); Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, DE (2018), among others.

I. S. Kalter | Yana Tsegay is Tsegay's second solo or two-person exhibition with Mountains.

For detailed CVs of the artists please contact the gallery.

social

I.S. Kalter: @i.s.kalter #iskalter #ishaishapirakalter
 Yana Tsegay: @ytsey #yanatsegay
 Mountains: @mountains_berlin #mountainsberlin

contacts

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