

# TEMLON



Press release  
23 September 2019

## JONATHAN MEESE

*Meese Haute Couture*

*(Tomorrow's Haute Couture is called Sleep)*

26 October – 21 December 2019

Opening: Saturday 26th October from 12 to 8 pm



*Dr. Hot Fashion im Feldlager, 2019, oil and acrylic on coarse untreated cotton cloth, 210,5 x 140,3 x 3,3 cm*

Five years after his last exhibition, Jonathan Meese is set for a spectacular return to Paris with his very own "MEESE fashion show". This vibrant exhibition lights up the gallery space with a mix of installations, sculptures and paintings in a homage to the capital of fashion. With a zany tribute to the late Karl Lagerfeld as his starting point, Jonathan Meese creates a gallery of portraits depicting some of the main figures of the fashion world, such as Coco Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent and John Galliano, as well as Louis XIV, presented as the first fashion icon.

Playing on the ambiguity of these figures, Jonathan Meese takes us on a personal and playful journey into the secret history of haute couture. He references everything from the nudity of Adam and Eve to the Reign of Terror and the uniform of Hitler Youth girls. From the medley emerges a strange pantheon, where the ghostly figures of Saint-Just and Robespierre rub shoulders with self-portraits, vampires, monsters and a whole host of fashion victims.

Jonathan Meese questions the boundary between culture and nature, creativity and conformism, appearance and power, themes which have been haunting his work for the past twenty years. At a time when the fashion industry has comprehensively appropriated contemporary art, which has in turn made its way into the work of countless designers, Jonathan Meese presents an exuberant reversal of hierarchy, imagining a world in which art is the predominant guiding force.

### ***Biography***

Jonathan Meese was born in Tokyo in 1970 and lives and works in Berlin and Ahrensburg. He has created an unclassifiable body of work, lying somewhere between expressionism and actionism, combining painting, sculpture, installations and performance.

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Jonathan Meese's work has featured in numerous international exhibitions since he first exhibited in Berlin and at the Berlin Biennale in 1998. He has taken part in various major group shows such as *Generation Z* at PS1 in New York (1999), *New Blood* at the Saatchi Collection in London (2004) and *Dionysiac* at the Pompidou Centre in Paris (2005). The Deichtorhallen in Hamburg and Magasin de Grenoble organised a retrospective exhibition of his work in 2006: *Mama Johnny*. In 2011, the Miami MOCA held a retrospective exhibition of his sculpture, and in 2012 the Akademie der Künste in Vienna took a broad-reaching retrospective look at his graphic work.

More recently, Jonathan Meese has exhibited at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (2018), Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna (2017), Carré Sainte-Anne in Montpellier (2017) and National Gallery in Prague (2015). This summer, the artist took over the city of Lübeck with the Dr. Zuhause K.U.N.S.T (Erzliebe) project, creating exhibitions for all the city's venues.

Jonathan Meese has also created sets and scenery for the theatre and opera, including *Dionysos* by Wolfgang Rihm, presented at the Salzburg Festival in 2010 and Staatsoper in Berlin in 2012. He designed the scenery for Charpentier's *Médée* directed by Paul Audi at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in 2012. His improvisation on Wagner's *Parsifal* at the Berlin Staatsoper in 2005 and *Homage to Noël Coward* at Tate Modern in 2006 were both unforgettable events. In 2007, he wrote and performed *De Frau: Dr. Poundaddylein - Dr. Ezodysseusszeusuzur* at the Volksbühne in Berlin. Jonathan Meese is currently preparing a new show called *Lolita (R)evolution (Rufschädigendst)-Ihr Alle seid die Lolita Eurer Selbst!* which he will be performing on five occasions from 15 February 2020 at Theater Dortmund.