

The Notion of Normalcy Group Exhibition May 2022 - Concept Note

Read here Kulturschöpfers Concept of the current May Exhibition 2022 „The Notion of Normalcy. Find out about our thoughts and questions related to this topic and be sure to visit this unique exhibition, which will be shown from May 20th to August 19th.



Bela Balog: „Face“ digital art

No matter who you are or where you are from, it is likely that the events of the last two years have drastically challenged your perception of what is normal. Our grasp on what is “normal” is becoming evermore tenuous. Just as we seem to be heading towards a renewed sense of familiarity, under the context of Covid, something else seems to be thrown at us, such as the war in Ukraine. What even is normal anymore, in this strangely uncertain, absurdly inconceivable world?

The notion of normalcy has a myriad of varied connotations associated with it. In some contexts, normalcy is how one conducts their day through routines and systems. However, what is normal for me is likely not normal for you. The normal we experience in the city of Berlin - a hotspot and breeding ground for alternative cultures and communities - certainly shows its contrasts against a city such as Paris or London. That being said, when the world fixates on the notion of “returning to normal” in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, what does that mean? Is normal something that even exists universally? Perhaps it is just something we have fabricated for the sake of providing comfort and a sense of control over our existence.

More importantly, we must ask ourselves if this nostalgia for “normal” is even a good thing. Do we even want to go back to the way things were? These last two years have exposed the open wounds of our societies. Black Lives Matter and global climate strikes forced the world to reckon with our role on this planet. However, equally pressing issues such as the famine in Yemen and the economic crisis in Lebanon - as well as many others - have been overlooked by many and under-considered in regards to their impact on the world. These issues have forced us to consider what kind of world we want to be living in.

Furthermore, achieving “normal” can be dangerous. When catastrophic events are eventually regarded as normal - think, the war in Afghanistan, extreme poverty in sub-

Saharan Africa - people become desensitized and possibly stop caring. So how can we hearken upon the positive aspects of normalcy while also dispelling the negative ones that hold us back from our greatest potential?

From May 20th to August 19th the work of six international artists will be exhibited in our gallery. The art pieces approach this topic of normalcy and will answer among other things the following questions:

- What can be achieved if we let go of the construct of “normal”?
- To what extent is normalcy something we should be trying to achieve or how do we need to let go of our aspirations for going “back to normal,” given what we have seen in the last two years?
- During these turbulent and transformative times, our vulnerabilities in society have been exposed. How can we take advantage of this changed perspective to redefine what is normal and change the trajectory of our future?
- Does the construct of “normalcy” inform us and help us understand where we stand in society in a healthy way? Or does it hold us back from greater potential?

Take a peek into what is normal and visit our Gallery!