

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Albertz Benda Presents
DENNIS SCHOLL: The Book of Impure Intentions

On view October 12 – November 18, 2017
Project Space, 515 West 26th Street
New York, NY

Opening Reception:
October 12, 6pm – 8pm



Blessed are you, embrace of the falling, foundation of the light, master of the human accident, 2017
Colored pencil on paper, 84 1/4 x 59 1/4 inches



Geometry of Innocence, 2016
Oil-based colored pencils on paper, 84 1/4 x 59 1/4 inches

New York, NY, August 21, 2017 - Albertz Benda is pleased to announce *Dennis Scholl: The Book of Impure Intentions*, the artist's first solo show at the gallery, on view from October 12 – November 18, 2017. Through his exquisitely rendered drawings, Dennis Scholl creates dark and mysterious narratives set in self-referential worlds.

In his earlier works Scholl challenged the conventional relationship between signified and signifier by extracting objects and figures from their familiar contexts and inserting them into collage-like dreamscapes. Today, the narrative created by the disparate elements is not intended to be coherent, it continues to evolve from the Lacanian concept of “manque,” or lack. This psychoanalytic theory posits that the “lacking” of something causes desire to arise, stimulating audiences to interpolate the absences and inconsistencies with their own desires. Nonetheless the most recent works take on an altered direction by striving to be more direct and accessible.

Scholl regularly incorporates literary allusions in to his work. One example, *Blessed are you...* (2017) invokes the Biblical good shepherd's tale, addressing themes of shelter and threat, as well as confidence and naiveté. This latest series has developed around the concept of 'Arcadia,' or a threatened state of harmony with nature, with each drawing subtly referencing its predecessor.

Scholl is mainly working on a life-size scale, altering the viewer's relation to the image: drawn characters become the spectator's counterparts. The viewer is prompted to move around the work, 'panning' and 'zooming in' as Scholl's painstaking details and carefully rendered textures create a constant shifting of perspective. In concert these elements contribute to a sense of displacement as objects that were obscured when viewed from afar suddenly emerge on closer inspection. This manipulation of focus is especially apparent in *Geometry of Innocence*; two sprawling figures dominate the composition, their textured clothing and hair alternately fading into the smoke that wafts across the paper.

About the Artist

Dennis Scholl [b. 1980, Hünfeld, Germany] lives and works in Berlin. From 2002 to 2006, Scholl studied at Hamburger Hochschule für bildende Künste. He has exhibited internationally in group shows, among them *Storyteller* (2005), Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany; *The Busan Biennale* (2010), Korea; and *Mémoires du futur - la collection Olbricht* (2011), La Maison Rouge, Paris. In 2008, he had his first institutional solo show, *Early Tales*, at the Institute of Modern Art, Nuremberg. His work is found in the permanent collections of Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany; BurgerCollection, Hong Kong; and Collection Olbricht, Berlin, Germany.

About Albertz Benda

Albertz Benda opened in fall 2015 and is devoted to a contemporary visual arts program focusing on rediscoveries as well as new introductions — from seminal figures in their field whose work warrants further exploration to debut presentations of artists that are new to New York.

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