

New Voices in the Conversation
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Encounter, 2019
Oil on linen, signed "BAK 19"
16 x 20"
BK2372

ENCOUNTER

Three birds meeting in an empty landscape, but there are a few things not quite right with this image. These birds do not have feathers, their bodies are built with metal and wood and they have to move around on wheels; and the one that is carrying an egg lost its wings, did they maybe break when she landed?

Were these birds at any time able to fly?

Between the three of them there are the remains of a cloud that has also fallen from the sky, it does not look like the nice soft clouds that we imagine, but stone hard!

Things are really upside down and in this landscape!

These birds will not fly anymore, their bodies are too heavy and they are now meeting to discuss what to do, how to get away from here and to find a safe place for the egg.

But it will be difficult to navigate with the equipment they have!

Only the egg gives us an idea of brighter future, this little egg could grow into a new bird with real feathers and wings and it could fly away and leave this strange place behind.

But what to do about the fallen cloud, what is the meaning of all of this? Or is the artist just playing and wanted to give us some riddles to occupy us?

He has succeeded with me!



Looming, 2018
Oil on linen, signed "BAK" lower left
20 x 16"
BK2383

LOOMING

The title says it all: Looming, a menace, something dangerous will happen soon

But in this painting it has already happened:

The moon has fallen from the sky and landed on top of a mountain, no way it can get back up.

The bird has lost its wings and instead of legs it has little wheels, it cannot fly anymore.

A broken egg lies in a puddle, there is no hope for a new life.

And three round forms that I cannot identify, but whatever they are, they are left behind by someone or broken pieces of something.

We do not know who or what made all these things happen, but whoever took control he/she/it made sure things are beyond repair.

But the strange thing is, although everything about this painting is out of control and broken, I do not feel despair.

Yes, the situation is terrible but somehow, maybe because of the cheerful colors that the artist used or because the little bird has such a friendly face, there is a glimmer of hope.

There is no way of knowing what needs to happen or who has the power to re-arrange this strange world that the artist has created.

How to get the moon back into the sky, give the birds new wings and a new and whole egg with life.

But stranger things have happened and we can imagine that repair is possible!



In the Air, 2014
Oil on linen, signed "BAK" lower right
12 x 16"
BK2388

IN THE AIR

Poor little bird, only the outline of his body is left. It is being held by a little string and we can see his original shape.

What a cute little bird before it got broken.

The dice that were supposed to bring it luck are hidden now and it is obvious that things did not turn out well.

But who is holding the string? Is this person ruling the universe and are we all just following some routine, manipulated by an unknown force without being aware of it?



The Weight of Fortune, 2019
Oil on linen, signed "BAK" lower left
12 x 16"
BK2389

THE WEIGHT OF FORTUNE

Crushed by too much Fortune. The bird played with the dice but it did not win. Now it needs to sit very still and not move otherwise the last little bit of luck will fall and then all will be lost.

It is holding on to a leaf but this will not be of any help and we can see that even if it could, there is no way this bird will ever fly again.

Its wings are broken and it is being held down by a rope around its neck and held down by the weight of his tail.

No Fortune for this bird, good luck comes and goes and one cannot hold on to it!



Bird-Portrait, 2017
Oil on canvas
14 x 11"
BK2392

BIRD-PORTRAIT

The bird was promised a portrait and the artist started to paint a mural. He wanted to paint a beautiful little bird and some clouds and a little landscape; everything with bright cheerful colors. But all of a sudden, things started going wrong and instead of creating a mural everything around him fell apart and got broken, and the artist left it as it was. But maybe somebody else will come along and finish painting the bird, repair his eye and put the cloud back up into the sky where it belongs. But it is not easy to repair a broken world and it needs people who have patience, good faith and courage! Let's hope there are enough of them around, they are very much needed!



Advice, 2019
Gouache on brown paper
8.5 x 11"
BK2358

ADVICE

Man up

Here he goes again, always telling me what to do and how to go about it.

It is easy standing down there but try being up here, between these wooden wings with hardly any space to move.

I have been trying to repair these birds for weeks already but it is very hard and I do not really have the proper equipment.

At one stage I had hoped that I could use these wings to fly away and leave everything behind me, but now I see that that will not happen.

I am stuck here and need to make the best out of a bad situation!

Man down

Not again!! I have been telling him over and over that he needs to put more weight on the right part, but he just does not listen to me.

We have been working on this for weeks already, just trying to get these birds up and flying again, but he is an incompetent fool.

And I have the feeling that he just wants to get out and leave me alone with this lot.

But I do not have a choice, I am stuck here and need to make the best out of a bad situation!

Birds

Stupid idiots, they think they can repair us and make us fly again. We used to have bright fluffy feathers, beautiful wings and we could fly across the oceans.

But now, we are nothing but old wood and one should just let us be, not everything can be repaired!