

Untitled, 2019



Niyaz Najafov

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serie Flowers

oil on cardboard

15x21 cm

Unique artwork

courtesy Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise

INV Nbr. niyaz01

Description:

Niyaz Najafov, a former soldier in the Azerbaijan army, channels his existential anguish into art. Najafov believes he was born an artist and his life has been about making sense of the world around him through the eyes of an artist. A self-taught artist, he paints obsessively, tireless worker like the workers he identifies with. He creates magnetic and often tortured figures presenting imaginary characters that disturb and tickle in equal measure. Compared to Francis Bacon by the Huffington Post, his art has been described as 'raw, crude and sophisticated at the same time.' Throughout 2016 to date, Niyaz Najafov started painting flowers on single-size cardboards (measuring around 14x20 cm), using invitation cards from various exhibitions. This is the series Flowers, taking a traditional pictorial formalism, where Niyaz revisits the painting and its clichés and reactivates them. By night, he sticks these flowers on various corners of streets in Paris, or parasite other's exhibitions. To date, more than a thousand of Najafov's flowers have been distributed across Paris, most of which have been taken down by passersby. Najafov interprets this act as 'social art' as opposed to street art - works are available for people walking past to absorb, remove them from the walls ('adhere' to law) and continue on with their journey ('advance' onwards).