

PRESS INFORMATION

Marc Erwin Babej
 Yesterday – Tomorrow
 A Work in Aspective Realism

Edited by Marc Erwin Babej
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The Rebirth of Egyptian Art after 2,000 Years of Dormancy and Its Evolution in Photorealistic Media

This latest work by American-German photographic artist Marc Erwin Babej revives the complex visual language of ancient Egyptian art and evolves it in photorealistic media. In the process, he adapts defining characteristics of Egyptian art, such as aspective representation (the simultaneous representation of the human body from multiple perspectives), the canon of proportions and the integration of images, symbols and text. The result is a work that is at once timeless and contemporary. The new art style, termed »Aspective Realism« by Babej, is regarded by Egyptologists as the rebirth and evolution of ancient Egyptian art.

An international team of more than 50 specialists was involved in the creation of *Yesterday - Tomorrow*, among them 13 Egyptologists from institutions such as Brown University, Harvard University, the Sorbonne, University of British Columbia and American University in Cairo.

The book includes texts by Marc Erwin Babej and Agnes Artych, Mariam Ayad, Roger Ballen, Christian Bayer, Laurel Bestock, Mariem Boukadida, Roxana Flammini, Juan Carlos Moreno Garcia, Oliver Gauert, Salima Ikram, Christian E. Loeben, Peter Der Manuelian, Matthias Müller, Thomas Schneider, Regine Schulz, Alex Vanderheyden and Steven Vinson.

The dedicated *Yesterday – Tomorrow* app, equipped with image recognition technology, provides additional »behind the images« content and enables exclusive access to the Augmented Reality component of this unique work.

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Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

The work has been exhibited solo at The Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria and the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim. It is held by the collections of all three institutions, the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, and others.

»My goal had not been to recreate Egyptian art as a formal exercise, or to create a work with an Egyptian theme. Rather, I set out to revive the Egyptian pictorial-symbolic-textual system in contemporary media — to gain access to the capabilities of this system, which vastly enriches expression about historical, political and philosophical themes.

This pictorial-symbolic-textual system possesses unique capabilities as visual literature: Rather than impose boundaries between images, symbols and text, it integrates the three. The resulting ImageSymbolText bridges gaps between images and words and reaches beyond combinations of images and words.«

– Marc E. Babej

www.marcerwinbabej.com

Exhibition

Yesterday - Tomorrow, Museum Weltkulturen
 Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen (rem) Mannheim, Germany
 15.03.2020 – 28.06.2020

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Press images



1_Photographic relief: Soft Power
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2_Jubilant masses (scene from Soft Power)
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3_Photographic relief: Law and Order
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4_Family idyll (scene from Law and Order)
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5_The king and his vizier (scene from the relief Horus is Watching You)
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6_Trampling (scene from the relief Hard Power)
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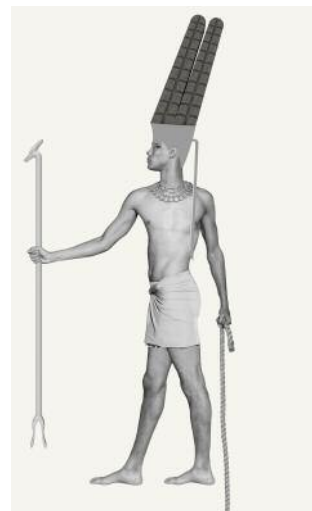
7_Figure: Wounded Enemy
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8_Figure: Scribe
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9_Figure: Hathor
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10_Figure: Amun
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11_Figures: Couple Embracing
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12_Smiting the enemy (scene from the relief Hard Power)
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