

Stranger Times

The spectacle is the uninterrupted conversation which the present order maintains about itself, its laudatory monologue.

It is the self portrait of power in the epoch of its totalitarian management of the conditions of existence

Guy Debord, *Society of the Spectacle*. Detroit: Black & Red, 1970.

Stranger Times develops from research on archival photographs, mainly from II World War and Cold War, about bizarre chemical and biological war developments and examines the human enormous capacity of normalizing and banalizing the barbarism¹. How much can we pretend that everything is ok when the world falls apart around us? To what extent are we exempt of responsibility?

We are in a theater where the familiar becomes strange, 'verfremdet' as in Brecht², the exception becomes routine,

It represents that uneasy tendency perhaps most poignantly, as it harasses the sanctity of the family, the society and the bourgeoisie, suggesting that any nostalgia we might have for their old, solid versions, should be abandoned, as according to two German and one Brooklyn's classics, "all that's solid, melts into air"³, and sentimental attachments are neither helping to stop this process, nor to emancipate.

Stranger Times tells us about the strangeness, the perplexity before the modern era and its absurdities, and the normalization and trivialization of these absurdities and their terrible consequences. Everyday life goes on while the world collapses around us, and we get used, banalize, adapt to the disaster or even gather to watch it as a spectacle. These paintings represent a not too distant past, or a future closer than we might think.

1. Arendt, Hannah, and 'Amos Elon. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York Toronto London: Penguin Books, 2006.
2. Fiorentino, Francesco. "Ansätze Zu Einer Pädagogik Der Fremdheit Bei Brecht." In *The Brecht Yearbook / Das Brecht-Jahrbuch* 45, 102-15. Boydell and Brewer Limited, 2020. →
3. Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. ed. New York: International Publishers, 1979.



Tropical Family. Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 100 cm, 2023 →



Day at the garden. Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 100 cm, 2023 →



The future is here. Oil on canvas, 180 x 120 cm, 2020 →



Children's Gas Mask. Oil on canvas, 140 x 100 cm, 2020 →



School Break. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2022 →



Just Married. Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 cm, 2022 →



Little Portrait. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2022 →



Dog Squad. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2022 →



Air Raid Warden. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Presentation. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2022 →



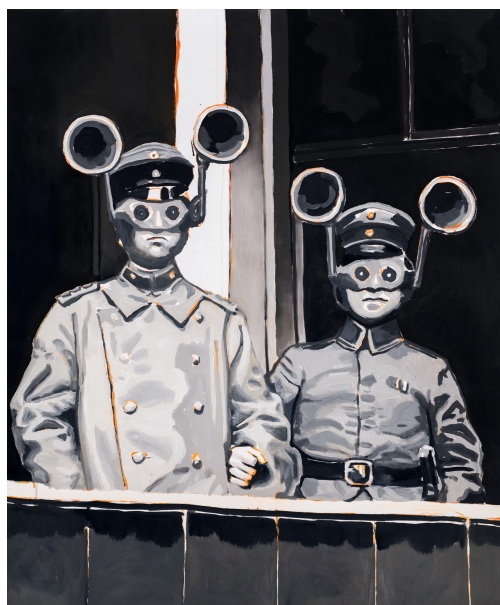
Chemical Development Section. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Practical Physics. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Masks at Play. Oil on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2020 →



Acoustic locators. Oil on canvas, 120 x 100 cm, 2019 →

