Omer Fast, *Der oylem iz a goylem*, 2019, production still, courtesy of the artist

Omer Fast. Der oylem iz a goylem

July 26 – October 6, 2019

Press conference: Fr, July 26, 11am
Artist Talk with Omer Fast: Fr, July 26, 7pm
World Premiere and Opening: Fr, July 26, 8pm

July 22 - August 1:
Omer Fast, Artist in Residence, Salzburger Kunstverein
During this time Omer Fast is available for interviews.

An exhibition of new work by Omer Fast, including a new film commissioned by the Salzburger Kunstverein.

Known for films that blend fictional and documentary processes, Fast has recently expanded his work to include architectural interventions and theatrical mise-en-scènes that explore social issues and political topics. His new film, *Der oylem iz a goylem*, was shot in March, 2019 in Salzburg and will premiere on July 26, 2019 at the Salzburger Kunstverein.

The Exhibition
This exhibition includes three films installed in a theatrical mise-en-scène designed by the artist. The first film, *Der oylem iz a goylem*, depicts two characters who are stuck on a chair lift, high above the wooded ski slopes of a snowy mountain resort. The second film, *The Invisible Hand*, follows a family's ordeals in a forest and dense city in the Pearl River Delta, China. The third film, *August*, is loosely based on the final years of German photographer August Sander.

Although worlds apart and speaking different languages, the first two films nevertheless evolve from the same medieval fairytale. Visitors will be presented with two case studies, seemingly distinct but sharing a common past and exhibiting similar symptoms. The film *August* will be installed separately in an autonomous gallery.

Installation 1
Der oylem iz a goylem
Single Channel Film, 2019, produced for the exhibition

Based on a medieval Jewish fairytale, this film takes place on a chair lift, high above the wooded ski slopes of a snowy mountain resort in the Austrian Alps. A lone skier accidentally drops her glove from the lift. As she helplessly curses her luck, a fellow passenger suddenly appears, not dressed for skiing but rather in the long black robes, the beard, side-locks and hat of an Orthodox Jew. Like any mountain spirit summoned by accident, this fellow passenger has his own agenda and story to tell. To the skier's growing dismay, he is quite impolite, will not stop talking and can halt the lift when it suits him. In order to exorcise this ghost and free herself from his stranglehold, the skier must resort to what she long thought suppressed and break up the boundaries separating the real world and fairytales.

This film was shot at the invitation of the Salzburger Kunstverein in various Salzburg locations in March 2019.

Installation 2
The Invisible Hand
Virtual Reality film in 3D, 13 min, 2018

Based on a different version of the same Jewish fairytale, this immersive 3D Virtual Reality (VR) film follows a young girl who recounts her family's uncanny past in the People's Republic of China. The story commences with the girl's father discovering a finger poking out of the forest ground, desperately reaching out for a nearby ring. Tempted by the precious jewel, the boy's better nature prevails and he helps out by carefully slipping the ring onto the finger, before running off. From then on, the family regularly receives neat bundles of cash on their doorstep, which magically reappear at regular intervals. Not knowing who their mysterious benefactor is, the family nevertheless grows accustomed to the recurring gift and becomes prosperous. The boy goes to private school. The family moves to a nice apartment. When the boy reaches adulthood and is about to wed, a mysterious guest arrives at the ceremony. Holding up the ring, the guest announces that the wedding is a travesty and must stop because the groom is already married. Following much consternation, the guest is shamed and thrown out by the groom's mother, who is unaware of her son' secret tryst in the forest and the true nature of the ring. Indignant and furious, the mysterious guest declares that all present will only speak the truth from then on that they will suffer the same indignities and be ostracized for speaking the truth. The film concludes on a hopeful note: After we witness a very frank exchange between her parents, the young girl tells us that knowing the truth will make her a better and stronger person.

The Invisible Hand was shot in Guangzhou, China, on a 3D VR camera at the end of January, 2018. The work was commissioned by and premiered at the Guangdong Times Museum in March, 2018, but was shut down by the local government after running for a few days. The reason given was that there are no more ghosts in China since the founding of the People's Republic.

Installation 3
August
Single screen, 3D projection, surround sound, 15 min 33 sec, 2016

Loosely inspired by August Sander's life and work, the film follows the artist at the end of his life, nearly blind and unable to sleep. As he roams his house late at night, figures from the past briefly appear, mostly frozen and ghostlike. At times friendly and at times taunting, the figures eventually drive the artist into the night, where he seeks refuge in nature.

Producers & Partners

Commissioned by the Salzburger Kunstverein.
Supported by James Cohan Gallery, New York, TARO NASU & Ishikawa Foundation, Okayama.

With special thanks to:
Privatklink Wehrle-Diakonissen, Salzburg
Salzburger Freilichtmuseum / Open Air Museum Salzburg
Salzburger Landeskliniken
Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg
Skigebiet Werfenweng
Travel Charme Hotel, Werfenweng
Wiener Goldschmiedemuseum / Goldsmith's Museum Vienna

About the artist

Omer Fast (*1972, Jerusalem) holds a BA in English from Tufts University, a BFA in Visual Arts from the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts and an MFA from Hunter College, City University of New York. Fast has had solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum in New York, the Jeu de Paume in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in Vienna, and Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, among others. Group exhibitions include dOCUMENTA13, the 52nd Venice Biennale, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Fast received the Bucksbaum award for his work "The Casting" at the Whitney Biennial in 2008 and has also won the National Galerie's Prize for Young Art in Berlin in 2009 with his work "Nostalgia". His work is in several international collections including Tate Modern, the Guggenheim Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Centre Pompidou.

About the Salzburger Kunstverein

Founded in 1844, the Salzburger Kunstverein is a long-running and leading contemporary art organisation specialising in contemporary art. It is located is Salzbur, Austria, and is housed in the Künstlerhaus, built in 1885. The Salzburger Kunstverein organises about twelve exhibitions of international and Austrian artists annually, and generates discourse and other relevant programming through its lectures, residencies and screening programs. The Director since January 2014 is Séamus Kealy.

Der oylem iz a goylem
(Production stills)
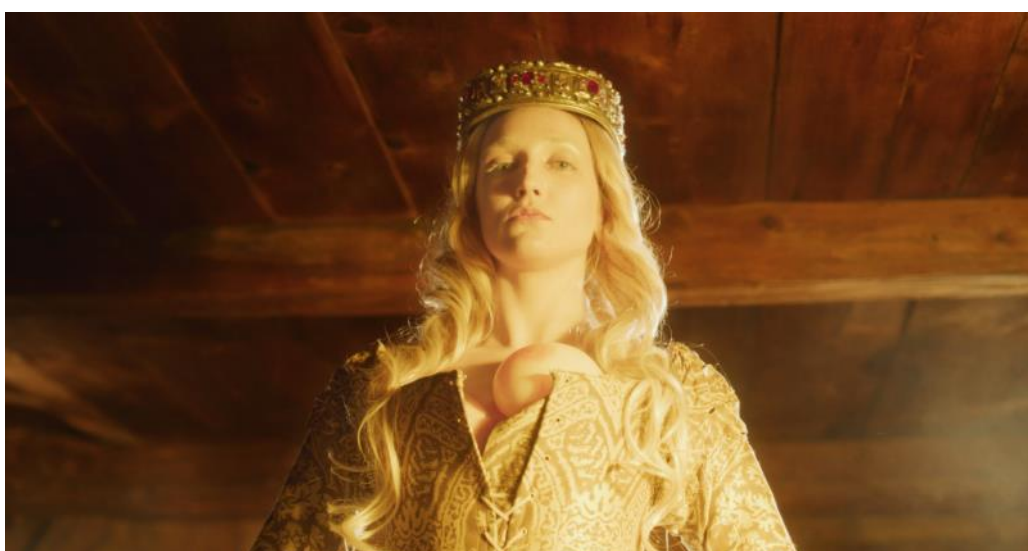
The Invisible Hand

August

For further information please get in touch with:
Michaela Lederer, Communication & curatorial assistance
Contact: lederer@salzburger-kunstverein.at, +43-(0)662- 842294-15

SALZBURGER KUNSTVEREIN / Künstlerhaus
Hellbrunner Straße 3, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
www.salzburger-kunstverein.at
Hours Exhibition: Tue-Sun 12-7pm
Hours Café Cult: Mon-Fri 11am-11pm