

An abstract painting featuring a dense, textured composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes. The color palette is rich and varied, including deep blues, vibrant reds, earthy yellows, and soft pinks, all set against a lighter, hazy background. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and complex visual information.

FUBAR

BERGHTOR MORTHENS

∞ Gallery
BY CARLSTEIN-GASPARAVIČIUTĖ

21 FEBRUARY - 20 MARCH 2020 AT MITT MÖLLAN, CLAESGATAN 8, MALMÖ, SWEDEN

FUBAR by BERGHTOR MORTHENS

C∞ Gallery
BY CARLSTEIN-GASPARAVIČIŪTĖ

FUBAR, Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition, is Bergthor Morthens' result of a battle to expose by covering up. Challenging traditional painting, Morthens' violent and time consuming process of building up and tearing down, and his use of unconventional materials, serves to reveal the true colours of political figures and episodes.

A decade ago the world was hit with a financial crisis. It led not only to a severe economic depression but also to political unrest. For Icelandic painter Bergthor Morthens (b.1979), the crisis in his homeland was the starting point for becoming more politically engaged in his artistic practise. Losing his trust in politicians, Morthens realized that he as an artist could react to the current situation and comment on it by using his art as a tool.

Getting out of his artistic comfort zone - traditional realistic figurative painting carried out with earth colours - Morthens started painting portraits of middle aged, white, male conservative politicians. He introduced a more free and creative approach divided in two steps. He began painting figuratively and then went on to implement a second performative act, where he altered the painting with bright colours and deformation, leading to the destruction of all likeness to the traditional realistic portrait.

Using the painting as a battlefield, with colours as his weapons, Morthens takes on his opponent and fights until the whole is interrupted

and a different narrative takes over. Colour is indeed a very important tool in Morthens' artistry, the blotch of strong and bright colours comes in as a separate action, contaminating the portrait, almost cancerous, and altering it in the process. It alludes to chromophobia, the fear of colour and a strong unwillingness to use colour, especially in traditional Western culture and intellectual thought where colour has often been seen as corrupting, foreign and superficial (*D.Bachelor, Chromophobia, 2000*). Throughout his works Morthens is searching for the role of colour as a subversive way to challenge established hierarchies, and as a way of undermining authority.

Morthens' time and energy consuming creative process reveals the artist's struggle trying to deal with the current political situation. His style bears reference to the gesture-led field of post-war expressionist painting, a violent process of building up, tearing down, and building up again, moving towards formlessness. In other words, FUBAR, Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition. In a way this is paradoxical: By covering up his subjects, Morthens' portraits at the same time reveal their true colours.



All works in the exhibition are available for purchase, prices including VAT. Prices in euro may change according to current exchange rate. For additional purchase information, contact hello@cgallery.se.



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Chromoscape, 2020

Acrylic, silicone and glue on canvas

54 x 50 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



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Monument, 2020

Acrylic and oil on canvas

150 x 125 cm

32 750 SEK / €3 200



Birthday Boy, 2019

Acrylic, oil, balloons and glue on plastic

47 x 33 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



Let Them Eat Chips, 2019

Acrylic, plastic and glue on glass

43 x 33 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



Make America Great Again I, 2019

Acrylic, plastic and glue on glass

43 x 33 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



Reaganomics, 2019
Acrylic and oil on glass
41 x 31 cm
11 500 SEK / €1 100



Jón Sigurðsson, 2019
Acrylic and oil on glass
41 x 31 cm
11 500 SEK / €1 100



What Can You Tell Me?, 2020
Acrylic, silicone and oil on silkscreen mesh
76 x 52 cm
17 500 SEK / €1 700



Portrait as a Politician, 2019
 Acrylic and oil on silkscreen mesh
 53 x 45 cm
 15 500 SEK / €1 500



Collusion, 2019
 Acrylic and oil on silkscreen mesh
 53 x 41 cm
 15 500 SEK / €1 500



No Frills, 2019
 Acrylic and oil on canvas
 40 x 30 cm
 12 500 SEK / €1 200



Foul, 2020

Acrylic, silicone and glue on plastic

58 x 40 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



Hairdo, 2019

Acrylic, glue and silicone on canvas

31 x 26 cm

9 000 SEK / €850



The Wreck, 2020
Acrylic and silicone on plexiglass
151 x 102 cm
25 000 SEK / €2 350



Gesture, 2019

Acrylic, silicone and oil on glass

41 x 31 cm

9 000 SEK / €850

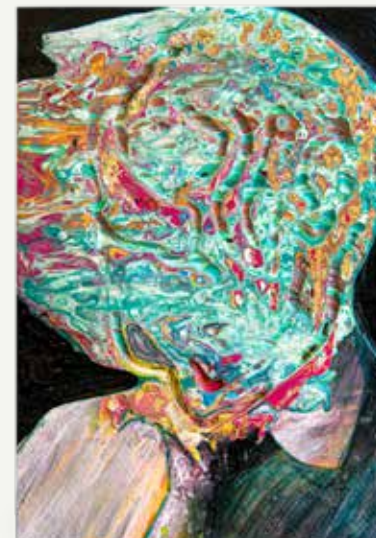


A Very Small Man, 2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

24 x 18 cm

7 500 SEK / €710



Self Portrait as Someone Else, 2019

Acrylic on board

25 x 17 cm

7 500 SEK / €700



The Protestor I, 2020

Acrylic and silicone on canvas

30 x 24 cm

9 000 SEK / €850

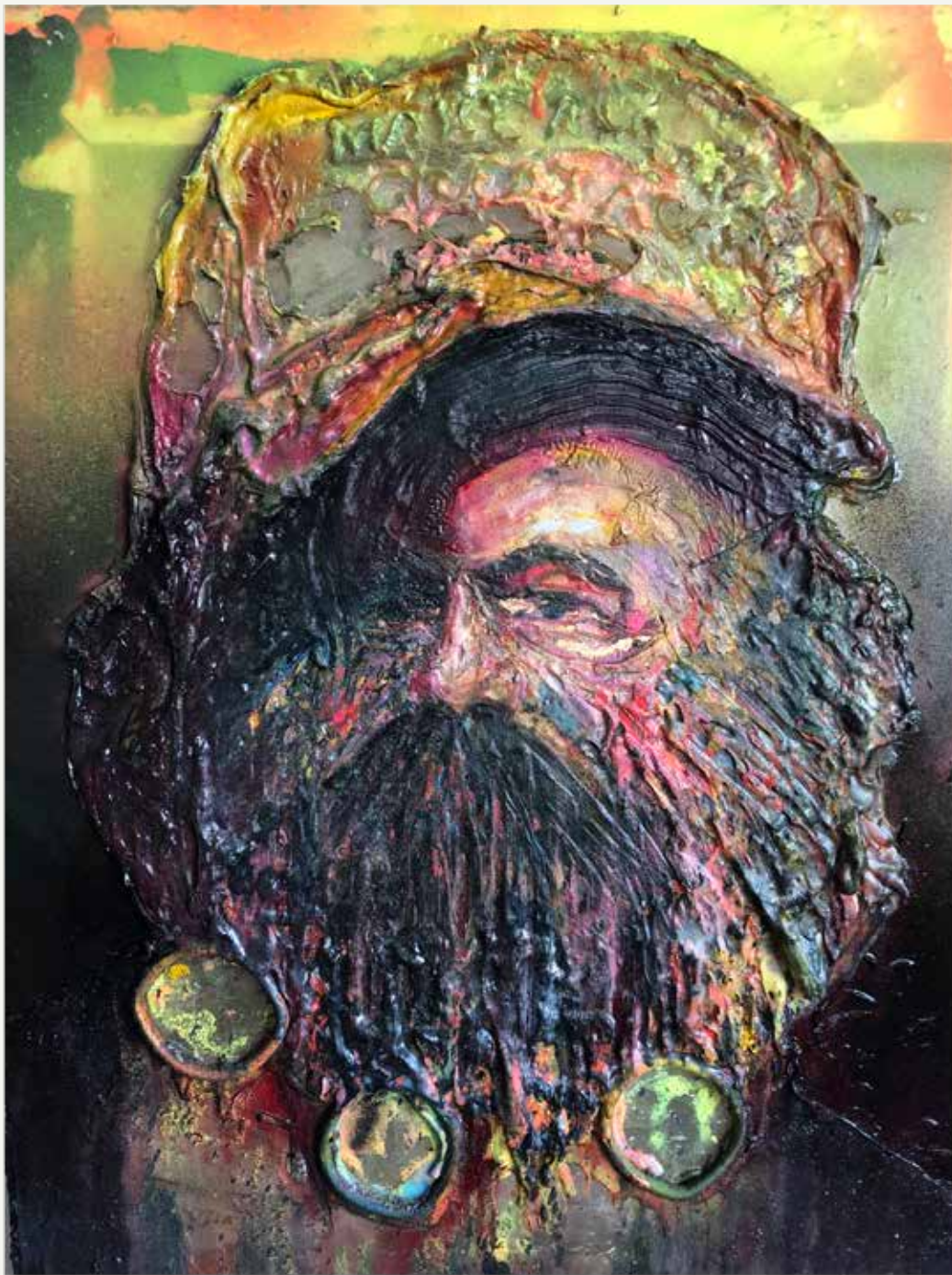


The Protestor II, 2020

Acrylic and silicone on canvas mounted on masonite

46 x 38 cm

14 500 SEK / €1 400



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Make America Great Again II, 2019

Acrylic and glue on plastic

40 x 30 cm

NFS, private collection

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Aberrant I, 2020

Mixed media

49 x 56 x 42 cm

24 500 SEK / €2 300

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Aberrant II, 2020

Mixed media

51 x 62 x 26 cm

26 500 SEK / €2 500

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Aberrant III, 2020

Mixed media

64 x 33 x 35 cm

24 500 SEK / €2 300

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