

# ARNDT

## Muntean / Rosenblum

Adi Rosenblum was born in 1962 in Haifa, Israel  
Markus Muntean was born in 1962 in Graz, Austria  
They live and work in collaboration in Vienna and London.

**Muntean/Rosenblum's** compositional approach to painting is traditional, though as much derived from the collective memory of figuration in popular media (fashion magazines) as it is from the direct appropriations from Renaissance, Baroque, and Neo-Classical motifs. Presented as tableaux of adolescent life, the images are always lozenge-like with a surrounding border of white. Written in a hand-script is an accompanying maxim, aphorism, or expressive comment, though it is never directly connected to a particular figure within the image. The texts are emblematic, and form a deliberately ambiguous or liminal content. The adolescent boys and girls are most often static and gripped with a sense of lassitude. They are young and invariably attractive, but any easily readable psychological content is denied to the viewer. They appear bored regardless of the fact that they possess the fresh and vibrant attractiveness of youth. The subject matter constantly slips away from the viewer, and though we recognise these young people their trendy clothes, their trainers, and their familiar bourgeois lifestyle and material acquisitions, it does not immediately open up any sense and/or wish for a personal identification. Muntean/Rosenblum show the problematic nature of figurative painting today.

Adi Rosenblum and Markus Muntean met each other as students at the Kunstakademie in Vienna, Austria. In 1992 they sublimated their subjective singularity into a double act, into a third person: Muntean/Rosenblum. From the outset as regards their relationship and partnership, they took up a position that was both conceptual and strategic: "This twofold authorship completely suits our concept. I think it is similar to the concept of the mask. Through the mask we created the identity of two of us and it allows us to escape the problems of my identification of my role of being a painter." (Markus Muntean and Adi Rosenblum)

The artist duo has staged solo shows in renowned institutions such as Essl Museum – Contemporary Art, Klosterneuburg, Austria (2008), Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig, Germany (2007), MUSAC, León, Spain (2006) and Tate Britain, London (2004). They participated in significant international group exhibitions such as "Rewind/Fast Forward," Neue Galerie, Graz, Austria (2009), "The Triumph of Painting" and "New Blood," both at Saatchi Gallery, London (2006 and 2005), and the 26th São Paulo Biennial (2004). In Berlin they gained wider recognition through their installation "Where else," shown at the 2nd Berlin Biennial (2001), followed by their solo shows at Arndt & Partner (2005 and 2008).



Untitled, 2010, oil on canvas, 63 x 69 cm | 24.8 x 27.17 in  
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