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The Armory Show



Spirit Animal, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 74 x 74 inches

For the 2021 edition of the Armory Show, Garth Greenan Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of 12 paintings and works on paper by Brad Kahlhamer, all created between 2002 and 2014. Brad Kahlhamer's works are expressive matrices of images, text, and gestural paint—reflecting a rich, peripatetic history. Opening on Thursday, September 9, 2021, the presentation is the artist's first with the gallery.

Greatest Geronimo (2013) depicts the Apache leader who fought against Mexican and US troops, and whose name—through America’s peculiar cultural alchemy—was appropriated by US military paratroopers and, ultimately, by the American children who imitate them.

Throughout the composition—and in works like *4 Topps NDN* (2013) and *Americannons and LUVRS* (2009)—Kahlhamer replicates the Topps Chewing Gum logo. While working for the company, the artist met Art Spiegelman, who in turn introduced him to New York’s thriving underground comics scene. The influence is evident in Kahlhamer’s jagged lines, informality, and improvisational tendencies.

Like much of Kahlhamer’s work, *Greatest Geronimo* is a frenetic mix of visual registers: stenciled spray paint and acrylic; dreamcatchers, teepees, headdresses, eagles, and buffalo. The easy mixing of tribal signals reflects what the artist has described as his “tribal ambiguity.” His official connection is sealed in records that predate his adoption by German American parents. The works, and his life, explore this disjunction and union, as well as the energetic tension between authenticity and ambiguity.

Kahlhamer has been the subject of over 31 solo exhibitions at prestigious venues such as: Deitch Projects (1999, 2001, and 2006, New York); Denver Museum of Contemporary Art (2008); Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (2012–2013, Ridgefield, Connecticut); Jack Shainman Gallery (2013, 2014, and 2017, New York); Minnesota Museum of American Art (2019, St. Paul); and Plains Art Museum (2020, Fargo, North Dakota). The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Tucson Museum of Art will both be mounting solo exhibitions of his work in 2022. His work features in numerous public collections internationally, including: The Museum of Modern Art (New York); Tucson Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Walker Art Center (Minneapolis); and Whitney Museum of American Art (New York).

Garth Greenan Gallery is pleased to represent Brad Kahlhamer.

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