

Marc Bauer

Location: Pfisterhuesli, 2nd floor

When we close our eyes, it does not necessarily mean that we see nothing. We just see different things: patterns, streaks, colors, or blurry afterimages that our brains sometimes charge with fantastic meaning.

It is probably also colorful behind the eyelids of the man dozing in an armchair in Marc Bauer's drawing *The Default Brain*. In neurology, the title of the large-format sheet describes that default mode of our brain in which we are still conscious but our concentration wanes and the brain begins to produce associations, visions and inklings. *Closed-Eye Hallucination* is the scientific term for this phenomenon, which Bauer uses as the starting point for a nervous daydream of eerily animated nature in a series of smaller drawings of the same name. A glacier suddenly leans over a lonely house like a hairy monster, icebergs grip a ship with menacing ease, a tiny pine tree balances anxiously on a high cliff beside it, and the spotlight eyes of two helicopters draw a dark grimace on the landscape between a mountain lake and the silhouette of a peak. Marc Bauer vividly reflects the fearfulness with which we tend to read images in our heads as future visions of a return of the repressed. (*roe*)

Marc Bauer, born 1975 in Geneva, Switzerland, lives and works in Berlin, Germany, and Zurich, Switzerland. His drawings have been exhibited widely, most recently at the Menil Drawing Institute, Houston, Texas, USA (2023), the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain (2021), the Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (2020), and the Istituto Svizzero Milan, Italy (2020). In 2020, he received the Prix Meret Oppenheim and the GASAG Art Prize. Bauer teaches as a lecturer at the ZHDK, Zurich.

Further information: marcbauer.net