

Eden

In contemporary society, the desire for an "Eden" or an idealised state of perfect harmony and simplicity seems stronger than ever. This longing often reflects a desire to escape the complexity and stress of modern life, in search of a return to a more innocent and idyllic existence. The story of Eden is often seen as a flawless paradise characterised by harmony, abundance and divine presence.

However, a closer look reveals that the perfection of Eden contains inherent complexities and challenges that deepen the story. Central to this reinterpretation is the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This tree symbolises more than prohibition; it offers Adam and Eve the opportunity to exercise their free will and make meaningful moral choices. By providing the opportunity to gain profound knowledge, the tree introduces a layer of moral complexity into the otherwise ideal environment of Eden.

The snake further complicates the story. As a seducer, the serpent challenges Eve's obedience, facilitating the transition from innocence to experience. This introduces the idea that true perfection involves not only the absence of conflict, but also the presence of choice and moral trials. This view of Eden suggests that perfection is dynamic and includes both ideal conditions and potential challenges. True perfection might involve navigating moral dilemmas and growing through them, rather than existing in an unchanging state of harmony.

The story of Eden thus resonates with themes in both utopian and dystopian literature. It emphasises the balance between idealism and reality and shows that even in a perfect state, the potential for moral development and growth is crucial. Eden's blend of paradise and complexity offers profound insights into human life.

The works in the exhibition, characterised by their chaotic and spontaneous appearance, similarly engage with the theme of disorder. The dynamic, abstracted forms embody a different kind of chaos - one that reflects the unpredictable and energetic aspects of the human psyche. The approach to painting and sculpture defies traditional methods and embraces unpredictability and the raw expression of emotion. Both Eden's story and the works in the exhibition deal with transformation. While Eden's story wrestles with the consequences of moral choices and the search for understanding, the exhibition captures the chaotic, transformative aspects of the human experience and offers a visual exploration of existential themes.

Curated by Jeroen Cremers

Participating artists:

Nandor Angstenberger

Peter Böhnisch
Joanna

Buchowska

Volkan Diyaroglu

Wolfgang Flad

Jay Gard

Julia Kissinger

Kai Richter

Caro Suerkemper

Sophia Schama

