

MEDIA RELEASE

18.3. 28.5.2023

Jakup Ferri we, we or me

A collaboration with the Fumetto Comic Festival Luzern

The pictorial world of Jakup Ferri (*1981) is colourful and full of happy creatures: humans, animals and hybrids, doing gymnastics, riding bicycles or breezing through the images on skateboards. But mainly they gather together: outside for a picnic, around a family dining table, to dance, make music or play chess in the park. As he draws, Jakup Ferri would seem to be asking himself what else a particular motif might contain. And suddenly, the buttons on a shirt become grains for birds to pick at. His works sparkle with graphic wit and speak of delightful things.

Jakup Ferri comes from Kosovo and for a long time he mainly worked with video until, thanks to a small sketchbook, he took to drawing. And to this very day small formats are still his favourites. He usually selects an 11 x 20 cm page, rarely any larger. He draws directly with the finest ink pens, without a preliminary drawing and usually without any prior idea. Often his starting point is a face. Jakup Ferri then expands on this, depending on how that face looks at the world – sadly, cheerfully or mischievously. He is always looking for new characters; most recently robots have entered his universe. One pictorial invention seems to give rise to the next. As a result, series emerge, for example, with vehicles such as bikes, submarines, aeroplanes or helicopters.

Jakup Ferri's drawings also provide the basis for other works, which is why lines are to the fore encompassing the colours, both in his coloured drawings and in his paintings and textile works. Since 2010 the artist has been having his pictorial inventions woven or embroidered. What inspired him to work with textiles were visits to markets in his hometown. In Kosovo as well as in other former Yugoslavian states, the production and processing of textiles were extremely popular. Jakup Ferri sought out craftswomen who embroidered his motifs in the traditional way. Although the first embroidered drawing was not very precise as regards the motif, technically the result inspired him so greatly that he meantime works with numerous craftswomen in Kosovo and Albania.

Concrete experiences or images are seldom Jakup Ferri's sources of inspiration, but rather aspects of folk art, crafts and Art brut, as well as structures like micro-organisms or pixels in computer games. The carpets, for example, are a collaboration with his son Jip, who designed the patterns for the computer game *Animal Crossing*, including for the characters' caps and T-shirts.

In 2022 Jakup Ferri was responsible for the Kosovo pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Now, for the first time it is possible to get to know his works in Switzerland. For the exhibition *we, we or me*, the artist has installed about 130 works, including many which were only produced in recent weeks. These works – carpets, embroidery, paintings – take up not only all four walls, but also the floor, superimposed to form a dense cosmos packed with stories.

curated by Eveline Suter

DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 17.03., 10.15 am

Opening

Saturday, 18.03., 11 am

Greeting and introduction

Fanni Fetzler, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Susann Wintsch, Artistic Director a.i. Fumetto Comic Festival Luzern

Eveline Suter, Curator

Events

All events take place in German. For more press information in English, please contact us:

caroline.glock@kunstmuseumluzern.ch or eveline.suter@kunstmuseumluzern.ch.

Workshop

Sunday, 19.03., 10 am

With the artist Jakup Ferri and his son Jip, for children from 5 years old, CHF 10.-, in English and German

Talk in the Exhibition

Wednesday, 22.03., 6 pm

With the artist Jakup Ferri and the curator Eveline Suter, in English and German

Family Tours with Workshop

Sunday, 14.05., 11 am and 3 pm

For adults with children from 5 years old, the workshop is included in the entrance ticket

Public Tours

Wednesdays 6 pm and Sundays 11 am

Schools

Various offers for all levels