

HVW8

HVW8 Gallery and adidas Originals present:

**WHILE I WAS MEASURING THE SKY –
A SURPRISED METEORITE FELL ON MY HEAD**

**MANUEL OSTERHOLT
SUPERBLAST**

Opening: November 1, 2019, 6–10pm

Exhibition: November 1–30, 2019

In bursts of neon paint, Osterholt configures symbolic odes to our human condition and mortality. Through his use of vivid and unnatural colors, elements of nature, the celestial and the otherworldly are transfigured into warning signs, as if illuminated by the prophetic glow from an explosion elsewhere. Like a heatwave in fall, the paintings whisper age-old fables in the flicker of pink-orange candle light: an ancient cycle of birth and destruction binds humanity and the natural world. Osterholt also presents a series of ceramic masks which reference both the traditions of ancient ceremony and ritual, and hiding in plain sight. These themes are unified in the glow of a lightbox installation, which features in the show as a symbolic gesture towards the tension between light and dark.

While these works possess Osterholt's signature iconography, the artist embraces a looser mode of expression than his usually-refined graphic style. Painterly strokes and sketchiness signal a renewed urgency in his message, as well as a playfulness which refracts remembered summers of his youth among the olive trees in Greece. The lucid mythologies encoded in the works also instigate a dialogue with the viewer about sacred tales of morality. Framed by the title's impossible endeavour of 'measuring the sky', Osterholt's work brings into question the role of the ego in the imbalance between good and evil. Through the mirroring of forms such as raindrops and flames, a microcosm emerges for the stardust from which we came, and that to which we'll return.

Text by Brit Seaton



Manuel Osterholt / SuperBlast
"A Bowl Full Of Surprises"
Acrylic On Canvas, 2019
100 x 70 cm



Manuel Osterholt / SuperBlast
"Stardust (It's complicated) I"
Acrylic On Canvas, 2019
100 x 70 cm

MANUEL OSTERHOLT / SUPERBLAST

Manuel Osterholt is an artist living in Berlin, Germany. Born in Heidelberg (1976) to German/Greek parents on a hillside street called Philosopher's Path, it's no surprise he feels compelled to see the world from a different perspective. A self-taught painter, Osterholt decided from a young age to explore his artistic vision. Discovering the sparkling world of graffiti writing in 1989 opened up a whole new universe to him, which became channelled into a distinct personal style tinted by hip-hop, punk rock and skateboard culture. His naive, ancient-like workmanship has developed into vivid interpretations of spiritual imagery. With the aesthetics and vitality of subculture close to his heart, Osterholt explores the possibility of symbolism and mythology in everyday life.
superblast.de / [instagram.com/superblast](https://www.instagram.com/superblast)

HVW8 GALLERY

HVW8 Gallery Berlin was established in 2014 by HVW8 Gallery co-founders Tyler Gibney and Addison Liu. HVW8 Gallery was founded in 2006 in Los Angeles with a focus on supporting fine art and avant-garde graphic design. HVW8 fosters artistic visions at the intersection of art, music and design, and collaborates with an international community of artists. Emerging and established artists such as Brian Lotti, Jean Jullien, Cody Hudson, Jerry Hsu, Jean André, Atiba Jefferson, Brian Roettinger and Haw-lin Services have exhibited their works in Berlin at HVW8. More info at hvwm8.com

Manuel Osterholt / SuperBlast
"Light To Protect The Darkness"
Acrylic On Canvas, 2019
200 x 200 cm



Gallery & media contact

HVW8 Gallery Berlin, Linienstraße 161, 10115 Berlin

Jenny Ames

+49 (0)176-23 30 6660

jenny@hvwm8.com

Agathe André de Trémontels

+33 (0)634-46 26 06

agathe@hvwm8.com

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