Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC







Wings of

Auguste Rodin George Grosz Akim Monet

In partnership with the Musée Rodin, Paris









December 14, 2020 - January 20, 2021 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

With the U.S. election resolved and the promise of a vaccine that hopes to curtail the global pandemic, we are happy to present Wings of Desire. This exhibition features work on the theme of the allegorical wing in a time when we are searching for a path to resumption, seeking an angel to guide us into an era of peace and unity.

Three lesser-known sculptures by Auguste Rodin are the central focus of this show. An admirer of birds and early aviators, Rodin saw flight as the desire to escape the weight of matter. In a year of social distancing and masked interactions, these works invoke intimacy and lightness, and a dreamlike longing to fulfill aspirations.

The namesake of the exhibition, Wings of Desire, is a 1987 cinematic masterpiece by Wim Wenders that follows invisible angels who comfort those suffering from feelings of isolation in Berlin. This echoes our current times, as the sentiment of being alone in a crowd rings similarly true in Berlin's sister city, Los Angeles, the City of Angels.

Akim Monet Berlin 2007-2018 Los Angeles 2018-2020

1 George Grosz, Lykkelige Mennesker (Happy Man), 1934, ink and opaque white on paper, $23^{3/8}$ x $16^{1/8}$ in $(59,3 \times 40,9 \text{ cm})$ 2 Auguste Rodin, La Défense (The Call to Arms), 1912-1918, Bronze, $90^{9/16}$ x $45^{11/16}$ x $33^{1/4}$ in $(230 \times 116 \times 84,5 \text{ cm})$ 3 Akim Monet, *Untitled* (Winged Figure), 2005, Pigment Print on paper, 14 x 10 in (35,6 x 25,4 cm)

ABOUT AKIM MONET FINE ARTS

Drawing on a lifetime of expertise in the art world, Akim Monet has forged lasting partnerships and constructed several innovative projects with preeminent organizations and artists. He has worked extensively with the Musée Rodin in Paris and subsequently formed a public-private partnership with the museum called "Rodin the Alma Project." Curatorial work continues with Popcorn Gallery Los Angeles, the current iteration of Side by Side Gallery Akim Monet, GmbH in Berlin.

www.akimmonetfinearts.com

ABOUT THE MUSÉE RODIN, PARIS

Created in 1916, thanks to Auguste Rodin's donation of his works and his collections to the French state, the Musée Rodin opened in Paris in 1919.

www.musee-rodin.fr/en

ABOUT RODIN THE ALMA PROJECT

Rodin the Alma Project is a public-private partnership initiated in 2015 between Akim Monet Fine Arts and the Musée Rodin, Paris.

www.rodinthealmaproject.com

ABOUT POPCORN GALLERY LOS ANGELES

Popcorn Gallery Los Angeles is the curatorial branch of Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC. After a decade in Germany, where Akim Monet founded and operated the renowned Side by Side Gallery Akim Monet GmbH on Berlin's famed Postdamerstrasse, he moved his practice to Los Angeles in 2018, where he continues to develop his focus on thematically curated exhibitions that juxtapose modern and contemporary art.

www.popcorngalleryla.com

ABOUT AKIM MONET PHOTOGRAPHY

In addition to his profession as gallerist and art dealer, Akim Monet has developed a successful photography practice. Widely exhibited, his work is featured in international private and institutional collections.

Monet has been showing publicly since 2002. His work has been included internationally in several group shows, and he has had numerous solo exhibitions of which "Passage to India" in New York and Mexico City, "Homage to Gaudi" in Geneva and Belgium, "Pergamon" in Paris, "Homage to Rodin" in Berlin, and "Seeking Al Tawhid" in Kuwait and Dubai.

Monet's work is on public display at the Deutsche Bank Collection, New York. Complementing numerous articles in the international press, a monograph about Monet's work was published in 2003: "The Space Between" (New York: Infinite Point Press).

www.akimmonet.com

"Part of the beauty and intensity of Akim Monet's photographs has to do with the convergence of opposites, of past and present. They stand sublimely poised in the space between."

Hilarie M. Sheets, writer for The New York Times. Artnews Magazine, and Art+Auction

"Fascinated by the moment captured by the opening and closing of the shutter – creating what the artist calls the "burn" of the image – Monet's photographs conjure a mystery and beauty akin to alchemy."

Liz Christensen, curator, Deutsche Bank Fine Art Program