

Press release

HENDRIK KRAWEN *EDEN*

**Opening 29 November 7.00 p.m.
Galleria Lia Rumma, Milan**

The Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan is pleased to present *Eden*, the first personal exhibition of the German artist Hendrik Krawen to be held in Italy.

The title chosen by the artist for this new series of works stems from his personal reflections upon the concept of Eden, the ideal, uncontaminated location of Paradise according to Biblical tradition. Thanks to technology, progress and capitalism, modern man – according to the artist – has attained a sort of Paradise which still does not resemble the lost Eden. The artist reflects on the lot of mankind, suspended between the loss of our original privileged condition and the continuous tension involved in regaining our original prosperity.

The subject matter of Krawen's paintings is modernity and its contradictions. Using predominantly monochrome tones, his works provide us with an unusual perspective of the urban landscape, liberated from space/time references. The artist observes reality from an original standpoint. Just like the photographer's lens, his eye seems to close in gradually on the visual field until it focuses on architectural details or individual figures, decontextualising them in the process. This approach can be traced back to the artistic vision that developed in German photography during the second half of the twentieth century. Several specific details appear in his paintings: a window, an architectural detail, a wall in the suburbs, palm trees and electricity pylons. The landscape rarely features human figures and when they do appear, they seem to be suspended in metaphysical isolation, creating an alienating atmosphere.

Hendrik Krawen was born in 1963 in Lübeck, Germany. He currently lives and works in Berlin. In recent years, he has taken part in numerous collective exhibitions held in important museums including the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt, Palazzo Cavour in Turin, the Kunsthalle in Düsseldorf, and the Fondation Antoine de Galbert in Paris.