EXHIBITION TEXT
MEESE'S ODYSSEY

Jonathan Meese draws and paints, makes objects, installations and performances. His body of work, ongoing since 1994, deals with fairy-tale villains, baddies from novels and films, and the gestures and symbols of power. His art is peopled by warriors, as well as unexpectedly gentle figures and fantastical creatures.

The exhibition presents Jonathan Meese (who was born in Tokyo in 1970 and lives and works in Berlin) as a kind of Odysseus of the present. In the ancient legend, the hero undergoes a transformative 'odyssey' to return home ultimately as someone else – enriched by experience, good and bad. Jonathan Meese also sees himself as a kind of Odysseus. The artist has painted the exhibit's title *Die Irrfahrten des Meese* ('Meese's Odyssey') on the wall in his own hand and has designed a large map for the carpet on which visitors tread as they explore the exhibition.

The exhibited paintings, sculptures, models, drawings and books date from the last 25 years and may be seen as markers of the points on a life's journey where danger lurks and adventure awaits, where mysterious tasks have to be solved and where a comic encounter is always just around the next corner. It is possible to construe the centre of the exhibition, painted red, as the crater of a volcano that belches out the material and raw energy that are transformed into art by memories, fears, dreams and hopes.

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