

Westfälischer Anzeiger from 11/3/08

Kaikaoss' delicious cherries

EXHIBITION KunstRaumHamm shows paintings of the artist

By Carolin Kaesler

HAMM – A sea of cherries, delicious shining red cherries – painted so realistically as if the viewer could dive right in at any time. Just like the depicted figures who are stretching out sensually in the collection of fruits. The situation seems natural at first, but after a closer look one realizes how the Afghan artist Kaikaoss plays with the usual visual experiences and fools the viewers' visual expectations. Like a red thread, the cherries run through Kaikaoss' picture series and repeatedly occur in abundance, as the exhibition „Fantastic Paintings“ shows, which opened on Friday in the „KunstRaumHamm“, 85 Langewanneweg. With over 20 different symbolisms of the cherry, in many of his pictures it stands for love and erotic longing, but also for evanescence and death. In this, the depicted motifs in the oil paintings seem close to reality, yet surreal, due to Kaikaoss' detailed painting technique, temporary yet classic. In the same way as he combines these contrary effects, the painter from Kabul puts together antithetical motifs whose difference only becomes clear on second glance. The ideas for his illusionary picture worlds often come to the artist in his dreams. There, he creates a parallel universe for himself which seems almost alive when brought to the canvas with transparent oil paint. The artist residing in Hannover creates this liveliness especially through his strong coloring paired with great technical skill.

Until November 30: Thu and Fri. 5-8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.