

Making a Friend of the Wily Fox, KLONE Creates Optimistic Allegories

A hungry fox tells a crow with a morsel of cheese in her mouth that she has the most beautiful singing voice in the world. He asks to hear the bird's marvelous song—but as soon as she opens her beak, he snatches the food and is gone. The moral: never trust a flatterer.

ARTSY EDITORIAL

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KLONE

Migration of the Night (The Great Adventure), 2014

Garis & Hahn

\$8,500

This story is only one of Aesop's many fables featuring wily foxes. One such beast gives a shallow bowl of soup to a long-beaked dinner guest whom he knows will be unable to eat it; another convinces a goat to join him in a well, only to use the other's back as a stepping stone out of the trap. Almost all of the fox fables advise caution to the vulnerable, promise bad karma for the deceitful, or highlight the far-reaching harm of selfishness, giving rise to a tradition of similar parables that has literally spanned millennia. In her recent article "Fox News" for *The New Yorker*, Joan Acocella explores the history of this kind of story, writing, "Such tales are no doubt as old as animal paintings on cave walls."



KLONE
Already Victorious, 2015
 Garis & Hahn
 \$2,500



KLONE
Grow (Rise), 2015
 Garis & Hahn
 \$2,500



KLONE
Grow (Listen), 2015
 Garis & Hahn
 \$2,500

New animal paintings on gallery walls comprise KLONE's New York solo debut at Garis & Hahn. The visual story told in "Topography of a Daydream" owes much to its Reynard literary predecessors. The two-story exhibition encompasses a range of media, from drawing, to sculpture, to video, to ready-made photography. KLONE's works on paper—made with inks of different hues and saturations, sometimes resembling watercolors—feature a set of animal characters that have traveled with him through his career, and look like they could be illustrations in a one-of-a-kind volume of fables. But diverging from Aesop's cautionary morals, KLONE's message is optimistic and fresh. The first piece that the viewer sees upon entering the show, *Already Victorious* (2015), shows a crow sitting on a fox's head; in *Grow (Rise)* (2015), the fox holds the crow supportively in his paw as the two howl together.



KLONE
Memory of a Memory, 2015
 Garis & Hahn
 \$10,000



KLONE
Sagittal Slice Day 4, 2015
 Garis & Hahn
 \$1,500

“The characters appearing through my work are commonly understood as lone travelers,” KLONE has said. “They stand on folklore’s borders—passing on the thin line between the widely acceptable and the commonly forbidden.” This narrative hits home for the Tel Aviv-based artist, who emigrated from Soviet Ukraine to Israel as a child. As a teenager trying to claim space in a still-alien country, he began tagging and making graffiti in the '90s. Two decades later, he infuses his characters with the sense of belonging he once sought—in a particularly moving wall drawing, two

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; share an embrace. The dreamy e north wall of the gallery is

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and faces their costumes within. In this way, KLONE makes

plain our age-old tradition of anthropomorphizing animals to teach our deepest human lessons.

—Emily Rappaport

“Topography of a Daydream” is on view at Garis & Hahn, New York, May 14 – Jun. 20, 2015.

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