

The National

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An ultimate guide to Alserkal Avenue during Art Week 2019

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Tibe Now: Free Drinks, Boots and Tickets to the Apocalypse by Philip Mueller at Salsali Private Museum

Open until May 31

SPM's final exhibition includes existing works from the collection as well as new and site-specific works from Austrian painter Philip Mueller (above). The exhibition follows the journey of the artist's practice by tracing the evolution of series including *Black Flamingo Sad Boys (BFSB)*, *Der Berg* and *Mutters*. His work focuses on the contemporary culture of excess as well as historical symbolism, with apocalyptic undertones.

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The Chaser, the Ambusher and the Fickle by Bernhard Buhmann at Carbon 12

Open until May 10

Titled after the ghost characters from the classic arcade game Pac-Man, Bernhard Buhmann's latest solo show straddles the line between the all-consuming digital age in which we live and the clunk of the analogue, which is still in living memory.

This collection of oil-on-canvas paintings dissects issues of identity and societal uncertainty considering how technologies infiltrate the world, and how they can create unease and unrest. "I am fascinated by phenomena which draw their strength from vagueness and confusion," says Buhmann. "Those moments of historical and societal uncertainty when fears and hopes affect how we imagine the future, how we behave among each other, our emotional states."

The basic shape of the original Pac-Man is only slightly discernible in a few of the paintings, which are otherwise full of colour blocks, lines and tightly constructed segments. At first glimpse, they appear gestural, but in fact they are considered compositions, which in that respect, also take their roots in the language of coding, the base of our digital age.