

Özgür Kar

Implosion, 2023

Video

Courtesy of the artist

Education Resource (K-6)



Özgür Kar

Death with flute (from the *Storage | Drama* series), 2021

4K video with sound, 75" Samsung TV, custom flightcase, media player, speaker, 15min loop.

Photo: Stephen James. Courtesy of the artist, and Emalin, London



biennale of sydney

Overview

Between the court jesters, noblemen, priests, and farmers who populate medieval art, dances a chorus line of mischievous skeletons. This style of art is known as Danse Macabre, or Dance of the Dead, originating in the Late Middle Ages.

Özgür Kar's artworks are animations which often feature similar skeletons dancing, playing instruments, and ruminating on the meaning of life. Yet while Kar's skeletons may seem spooky, they are also emotionally vulnerable, asking big questions about who we are and how we live.



Özgür Kar

Death with branch (from the *DAWN* series), 2023

2-channel 4K video with sound, 13min loop.

Commissioned by The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago

Photo: Cody Schlabaugh. Courtesy of the artist.



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Discussion Questions

Kar's artworks are neither sculptures, drawings or paintings.

How would you **describe** the works?

Describe what you **see** and **hear**. Is this what you would **normally expect** to find in a gallery?

How would you **define art**? Would it include **music**?

Kar animates his skeletons like old fashioned cartoons. Think about the sort of cartoons you've seen before.

What do you **like** about **cartoons**? How do you think they are **made**? How do they normally make you **feel**? What about Kar's work is **similar to cartoons** you've seen before? What about it is **different**? How do you think Kar is trying to **make you feel**? What might his **characters be feeling**?

Practical Activities

In the top-right corner of your exercise book draw a stick figure with their arms out. On the top corner of the next page draw the same stick figure with their arms, and legs or both in a slightly different position.

Repeat this process moving the arms and legs just a small amount each time. Try to make each new drawing of the stick figure different as though they are dancing to create a flipbook.

Hold the corner of the book and flick through the pages to watch the animation you've created.

Kar's skeletons play bones like instruments.

Think of a character of your own. It could be a person, an animal, a walking talking vegetable; let your imagination run wild.

Now give your character its own unconventional musical instrument. Draw your character mid-song.

Try to capture the sense of movement and excitement of live music.

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