

CAPTAIN

OF

FREEDOM

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

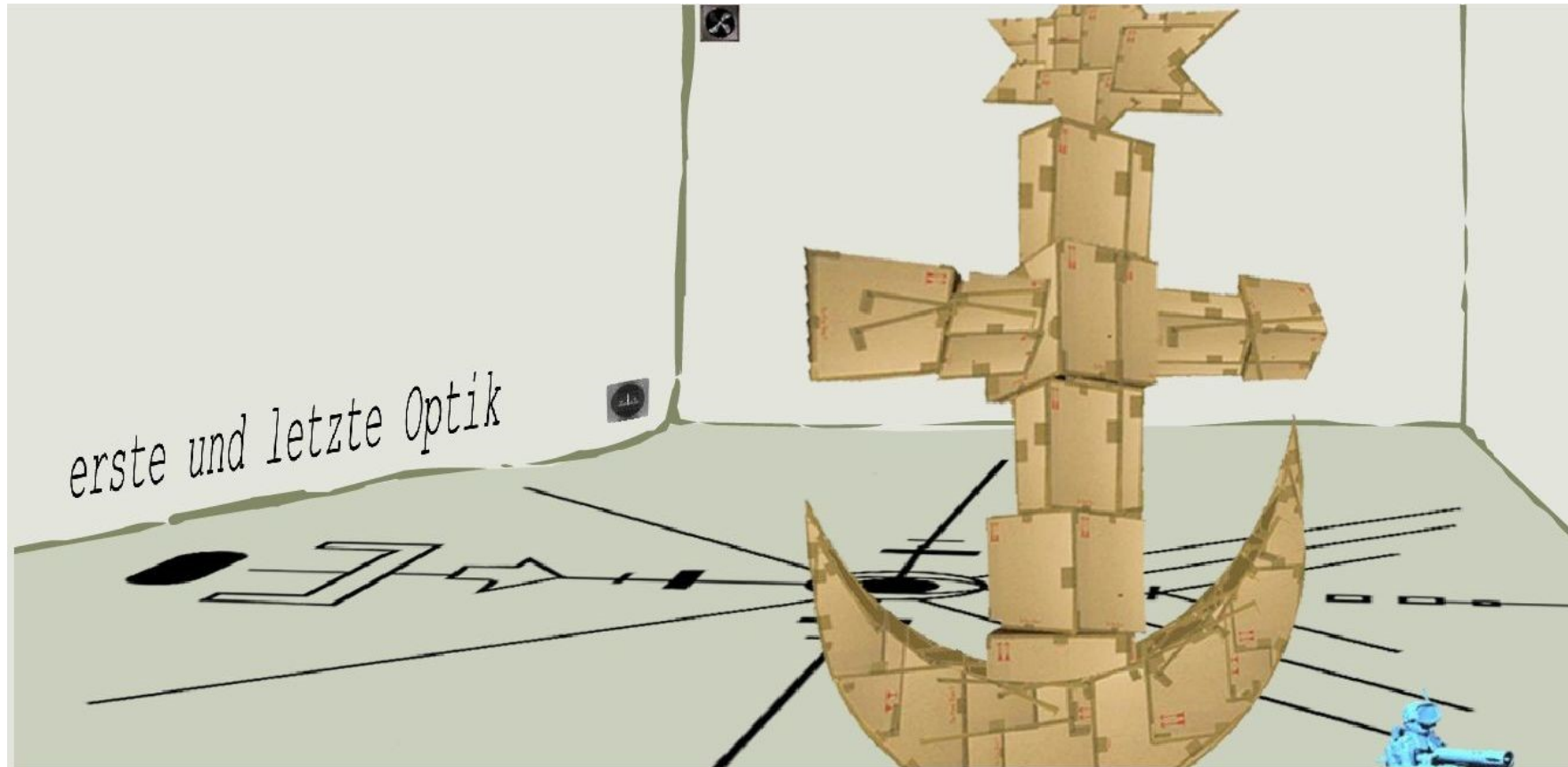
ink, acrylic
and varnish
on canvas

60 x 80 cm



The Captain of Freedom has inherited similarities with the ancient 'Lord of Misrule'. Originally this character appeared in the Babylonian Sakaia festivals, the Greek Cronia and Roman Saturnalia as the mock king of freedom. He was a temporary leader who ridiculed the public figures of his time to reveal the absurdity of power. At the end of the festival the bogus king would be sacrificed before the Gods to restore order to society. As a contemporary 'Lord of Misrule' the Captain of Freedom finds himself more and more distorted by the influencing forces he is trying to decypher.

The recurring sign on his folded paper hat combines the symbols of three influential religions he attempts to connect in his frantic search for freedom. The signs form a ship, with the crescent moon of Islam as hull, the Christian cross as the mast, and the Star of David as sail and crow's nest. Riekus developed this syncretic sign in 2005 as a digital sketch entitled "erste und letzte Optik" ("first and final perspective").



Screenshot of the “erste und letzte Optik” webpage (2005) of Riekus’s digital museum R.A.F.F. (2008 – 2018) featuring the composite sign that in 2013 will reappear on the Captain’s hat.

CAPTAIN

SERIES I

2013 / 2014

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

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private collection

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RIEKUS



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RIEKUS



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RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
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50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



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2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
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ink, acrylic and
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ink, acrylic and
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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

private collection

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private collection

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2013

pencil, ink, acrylic
and varnish
on canvas

60 x 80 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2014

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2014

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2014

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

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2014

ink, acrylic and
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50 x 60 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



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ink, acrylic and
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Captain of Freedom

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ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2014

ink, acrylic and
varnish on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2014

BiC, Tipp-Ex and
edding on paper

30 x 40 cm

private collection

RIEKUS



SERIES II - 2015



RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2015

charcoal on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2015

charcoal on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

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charcoal on paper

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RIEKUS



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50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS



Captain of Freedom

2015

charcoal on paper

50 x 60 cm

RIEKUS

Riekus's work as a painter and sculptor grows out of a fascination for craftsmanship, and an innate knowledge of the singular properties of materials and their transformations. His practice addresses past and current interactions between humanity, nature and culture. He mostly works on ongoing projects, such as Resin Paintings, Ship of Fools, Powerfigures, Captain of Freedom, Intrusive Relationships, Hundred Souls (Zielen), Shamepoles, Metal Paintings, Machines of Subjectivication.

Riekus was born in 1973, and now lives and works in the Netherlands and France. He received his M.F.A. (2000) and Meisterschüler (2001) from Kunsthochschule Kassel, in Germany. His works are featured in several private and public collections.

For more information or purchase inquiries please contact us at: info@riekus.com

