



Mixed Feelings

Ryan Brown
Larry Li
Tommy May
Gwen O'Neil
Xiao Wang

F2T Gallery | Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milan
Opening December 16th 2021, 6-9pm

December 17th 2021 - January 29th 2022

"You get mixed messages because I have mixed feelings"
- Sarah Kane

The visual and emotional contrast that takes shape in this group show comes from the idea to create continuity between works and artists apparently heterogeneous, but intrinsically connected by recurring themes.

The bond between figurative and abstract, brings the eye and mind of the viewer towards a deeper research of the story behind the works showcased. As in a narrated storytelling, "Mixed Feelings" goes through a journey along five different aesthetics, strongly recognizable as the essence of the main message, which is often in opposition to the first impression that a colorful and almost lighthearted painting can arouse.

Tommy May and Gwen O'Neil, based in Los Angeles. They use abstract painting in their work, being influenced by artists such as Helen Frankenthaler and Kenneth Noland.

Tommy's life is split between winters spent in the versatile city of LA and summers in Martha's Vineyard, surrounded by the stillness of nature. The diversity of these two environments, helps defining his imagery, where different stylistic effects blend and create works with such captivating colors and shapes.

In spite of the appearances given by such an essential style, even in Gwen there is a strong reference to natural elements; taking inspiration from photography, and focusing on light and colors, she depicts instinctive phenomena such as the migration of a flock. The reference to pointillism gives the artist the opportunity to re-propose, in a contemporary version, one of the most iconic techniques of modern art.

Another direct reference to the surrounding environment can be found in Xiao Wang, Chinese artist based in New York. Through a hyper-figurative representation and a cold color palette, Xiao's work is characterized by human subjects immersed in an almost transcendent vegetation: often, it is nature itself that represents the artist's vision or feelings. As he states, "the landscape itself is almost always

secondary to the men's ego." In his paintings, nature is not only prevailing, but often overpowers the human subject. Through his works, he analyzes themes such as social change, particularly with regard to politics, cultural identity and environmental crises. The sense of mystery that transpires from the body of his works, lose the viewer in an ultraviolet atmosphere, which looks like it belongs to another world.

The strong connection with the fourth artist of the group show, Larry Li, Chinese born and based in Los Angeles, is evident. Through the combination of painting, drawing and collage he observes and dissects the social distress resulting from his life experiences, introduced through the lens of contemporaneity. Born in the Henan province, considered the cradle of Chinese culture and recently devastated by a torrential rain, his works are stand on the concept that, in spite of technological progress and general advancement that man is experiencing, the human being is constantly at the mercy of the planet, as the increasingly frequent natural disasters testify.

A cartoonish version of flora, fauna and silhouettes characterizes the oil works by Ryan Brown, the only European artist in the exhibition. Based in Norwich, England, behind the playful appearance of his subjects, his aesthetic is aimed at analyzing the transitory nature of loneliness in an introspective way, demonstrating how even the most common subjects and contents can actually generate such deep and contrasting feelings.

"Feelings are like waves. You cannot stop them from coming, but you can decide which ones to surf."
- Jonatan Mårtensson

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Gallery hours | Tuesday - Saturday, 11am-7pm
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