



NY to Milan

Lior Modan
Opal Mae Ong
Julie Severino
Stipan Tadic

F2T Gallery | Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milano

Opening May 18th, 2022, 6 - 9 pm
May 19th - June 18th, 2022

“Sometimes to walk in shaded parts of Manhattan is to be inserted into a Magritte: the street is night while the sky is the day.”

Joseph O’Neill

Following the path of its inaugural show, F2T Gallery is extremely proud to celebrate its first anniversary by presenting a selection of four artists from New York.

While last year Los Angeles landscape dominated the space with its softly colored atmosphere and Californian vibes, now the bond among the exhibited works is the city of New York, one of the most energy and multicultural towns in the world, both from a geopolitical and an artistic point of view.

New York does indeed differ in terms of landscapes and lifestyles, yet it reflects the multitude and heterogeneity of backgrounds and cultures of its inhabitants, a theme that is unmistakably evident in the works and techniques of the artists in this exhibition, which is combined with that American dream of allowing the work of young talents to emerge and express themselves at their best.

Lior Modan (born 1983, Tel-Aviv) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. His practice is in constant slippage between distinct territories: painting and object, abstraction and figuration, gestural and surreal. Modan’s eclectic paintings, sculptures and vacuum-casted prints are enigmatic, surprising and oftentimes exquisitely tactile. Using pattern, language and form in glitchy combines, often unified by textural shrouds, Modan’s balancing acts thrive on surface tension, evoking complex, sometimes awkward and/or uncomfortable moods.

The aesthetics of Julie Severino (New York, 1991) create psychological narratives that function as a tool to deepen her understanding of the mind and body connection, in relation to her own personal history and the larger human experience. Playing with perspective, her paintings depict disproportionate figures or things, that are in dialogue with the multidimensional environments. The sculptures are made with various materials, such as, aluminum, magic sculpt, glass, paper, and other found materials. The transition from painting to sculpture allows Severino to explore with her hands and body in a way that calls attention to an immersive visual language and way of creating.

Opal Mae Ong (Los Angeles, 1994), paintings' practice involves matte materials like acrylic and gouache, while her drawings are often monochrome and made of graphite on watercolor paper. With these materials Ong is able to make meaning of opaquely felt experiences such as unnameable desire, complicated grief and personal trauma. She borrows symbolic imagery and invents figures that participate in a reality not too far from her own. The work may appear allegorical but it never arrives at any kind of moral. Instead the figures suggest evasion, mourning, enacting self punishment, following ghosts, losing limbs and holding things dear.

Zagreb-born Stipan Tadić (1986) relies on his keen sense of observation and his ability to look for hidden meaning to create paintings that do more than merely depict their subjects. His Balkan origins are reflected in his works through symbols, references, codes, which make themselves the spokesman for his figure of an immigrant relocated to a megalopolis like New York, a city that can also lead to a feeling of strong loneliness, just as the two works on display testify: two lonely men smoking in an almost empty street. Whether portraits, cityscapes or landscapes, Tadic conveys something beyond appearance. With dramatic colors, skewed perspective, and altered reality, he conveys attitude, character and emotion.

"In New York, the opportunities for learning, and acquiring a culture that shall not come out of the ruins, but belongs to life, are probably greater than anywhere else in the world."

Thomas Wolfe

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

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