



## ***With Regard To Each Other***

Julie Severino & Mario Joyce

F2T Gallery | Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milano

Opening January 19th 2023, 18-21

January 20th – February 25th, 2023

Julie Severino & Mario Joyce open the new exhibition season of F2T Gallery with the intimate and deep duo show, "*With Regard To Each Other*".

The path inaugurated by the two American artists follows personal narratives which, supported by references from the History of Art, assume the ultimate goal of transmitting and delivering important messages to the viewer, according to a fresh context through their own painting languages.

In this direction, the artists' reflections on historical concepts have been represented through the use of personal language such as collage, photography, painting, poetry and sculpture. These different practices, within the individual narratives, therefore generate a show capable of speaking and recognizing each other, through historical and cultural references filtered by the unique lens of the artists' motifs.

The aesthetics of Julie Severino (New York, 1991) creates psychological narratives aimed at deepening the connection between mind and body, in relation to her personal history and the wider human experience. This body of work is an homage to some historical compositions, exploring the themes of consciousness, fertility, femininity, tenderness and joy.

With works of art that refer to masterpieces by *Louise Bourgeois*, *Mary Cassatt*, *Leonor Fini*, *Nan Goldin*, *Picasso* and *Egon Schiele*, Severino explores different methods of representation according to a personal perspective of storytelling through painting, sculpture, photography and poetry.

The inclusion of the poem with some of the artist's works is a key and delicate fragment of Severino's studio practice; writing often becomes the genesis of paintings and sculptures, likewise, in the process of creation itself, the work becomes the inspiring muse of the final text as well as an integrated section of the work of art itself.

Therefore, the artwork, allows the viewer to empathize with the relatable personal context, while reimagining these familiar compositions.

The artistic practice and visual research of Mario Joyce (Ohio, 1985), Queer artist, Afrodescendant who grew up in rural Ohio has an absolute autobiographical value. The genealogical research and studies on the African Diaspora conducted by the artist, combined with the expressiveness of the painting, create a collective narrative based on social discrimination within the history of America.

By means of his avatars scattered across the canvases, the figures rise to assume features traced by skillful use of collage of images from vintage books printed, characterized by natural, architectural elements or interior views. In this body of work Joyce, intends to synthesize in them the symbolism which, to the detriment of slavery, made the nation and the history of the Founding Fathers.

In this sense, the short circuit triggered by the artist is traced by a search for period images (1965-2000) relating to architecture by Andrea Palladio - taken as an example by the settlers for the first stately homes - and now contributed by Joyce on the canvas as the bodies of Afro-descendant male figures.

Memorials and tourist attractions such as the White House, William & Mary Collage, and the Capitol Building are nothing but the result of exploitation, violence and racial segregation that do not intend to escape the artist and his ancestors. Joyce outlines human pyramids which, steeped in history, now stand out against the Atlantic shoreline to form a bridge between their original homeland and the world they built upon themselves.

The thick impasto mixture, obtained with oil paint, is filled with the same power of the artist's ancestors in order to penetrate the fibers of the canvas and Mario Joyce's personal story. In this sense, this ancestral sentiment is expressed in his artistic practice by varying brushstrokes that speak like a language or a script; each movement traces and defines singular narratives.

*"The figures are the walls, the windows, the wood and nails that fight gravity. They support and shelter us. They dig their toes into fine sand fighting for stability. It is only through their collective strength that that we enjoy the delicate freedoms we have today. It is by their example that we are shown how to grab for more visibility, value and those inalienable rights this place was founded on."*

Mario Joyce

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

F2T Gallery, Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milan

[info@f2tgallery.com](mailto:info@f2tgallery.com)

[www.f2tgallery.com](http://www.f2tgallery.com)

IG @f2tgallery