

Fragile and Unregulated

Curated by Brian Rochefort

MASSIMODECARLO is pleased to present *Fragile and Unregulated*, a virtual exhibition curated by gallery's artist Brian Rochefort, opening online at MASSIMODECARLO VSpace. *Fragile and Unregulated* is the fourth in a series of artist curated projects to take place in our virtual space. For the occasion, Brian Rochefort has conceived a virtual exhibition that brings together painters and sculptors who work in a nonrepresentational style - yet anchored in figuration, nature and reality, that invites universal interpretation.

Fragile and Unregulated presents a selection of artworks by the American based artists Julian Hoeber, Maysha Mohamedi, Spencer Lewis and Brian Rochefort, the Chinese artist Zhang Enli and the French duo Tursic & Mille. Rochefort searched for artists who worked in either a similar motif or shared a familiar mark making technique, yet having a unique and personal approach to the use of colour and patterns.

Zhang Enli (b. 1965 in Jilin, China. Lives and works in Shanghai), best known for his symbolic and figurative paintings, also explores abstraction through dissolved and open brush strokes, creating enveloping and dynamic paintings. The work *A Melancholic Person* (2019), with a deeply evocative title that binds it to the realm of reality, is a large and airy painting with elegant linear marks that relate strongly to Maysha Mohamedi's canvas, both having a subtle grid structure overlapped with non-iconic floating imagery. Mohamedi (b. 1980 in Los Angeles, where she lives and works) creates lyrical abstract paintings with geometric elements and a balanced colour palette that reflects the fragile and regulated order of the natural world.

Julian Hoeber (b. 1974 in Philadelphia. Lives and works in Los Angeles) is a multidisciplinary and multi-dimensional artist who works with tromp l'oeil paintings, architectural sculpture, photography, and drawing. By creating optical and sensory illusions, Hoeber investigates intuitive processes and the relation between concept and form, consciousness and physical reality. His gridded painting here exhibited is meticulous yet painstakingly worked with light scuffs hovering over a vortex to signify space and depth. In a

complementary approach, Spencer Lewis' paintings have strong confident directionality but with raucousness. Lewis (b. 1979. Lives and works in Los Angeles) creates very gestural and colourful paintings which originate from digital drawings and rigorous studies to then escalate to an explosive improvisation, generating very fleshy paintings. Although abstract, his paintings evoke the human figure for their proportions and vertical impetus.

Tursic & Mille (Ida Tursic, b. 1974 in Belgrade, Serbia. Wilfreid Mille, b. 1974 in Boulogne-sur-mer, France. Live and work in France) are the outliers in the exhibition, with a figurative foreground, but with suspended dash marks that echo Zhang Enli's painting. Their work takes inspiration from the contemporary abundance of images, found on the Internet, magazines, movies and other media, and interrogates how this pre-existent material can be transformed into paintings, resisting obscurity and anonymity.

Finally, the curator of *Fragile and Unregulated*, Brian Rochefort (b. 1985 in Rhode Island. Lives and works in Los Angeles) participates with a new ceramic sculpture titled *Supervolcano* that recalls the crater of a submarine volcano erupting a pinkish and dense molten magma.

For further information and materials:

Press Office, Massimo De Carlo
 T. +39 02 7000 3987 - T. +44 (0) 2072 872 005
 press@massimodecarlo.com
 www.massimodecarlo.com
 IG: massimodecarlogallery
 #massimodecarlogallery

Brian Rochefort (b. 1985, Rhode Island) currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He was awarded the Lillian Fellowship from the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts in Montana (2007-2008). Solo exhibitions include: *Perhaps An Asteroid Hit*, Massimo De Carlo, London (2021); *Absorption by the Sun*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara (2019); *HotSpots*, Van Doren Waxter, New York (2017). Group exhibitions include: *Artifices Instables. Histoires de céramiques*, Villa Sauber, MNM, Monaco (2020); *Cool Clay: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Ceramics*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento (2019); *Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Clay*, Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles (2018); *Ceramic Biennial*, CAFAM, Los Angeles (2017); *From Funk to Punk: Left Coast Ceramics*, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York (2017); *Regarding George Ohr*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida (2017).

Julian Hoeber (b. 1974, Philadelphia) lives and works in Los Angeles. He holds a BA in Art History from Tufts University, Medford (USA), a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and an MFA from the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. Hoeber's work is featured in public and private collections internationally including Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; DESTE Foundation, Athens; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; Rosenblum Collection, Paris; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; the Western Bridge Museum, Seattle.

Maysha Mohamedi (b.1980, Los Angeles) lives and works in Los Angeles. She received her MFA from California College of the Arts, San Francisco. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at Nicelle Beauchene, New York (2020); Halsey McKay, New York (2020); The Lodge, Los Angeles (2018). Her work has recently been included in group shows at Loyal Gallery, Sweden (2020); Artual Gallery, Beirut (2019); The Lancaster Museum of Art and History, Lancaster (2019); The Pit, Los Angeles (2019; 2017).

Spencer Lewis (b. 1979) lives and works in Los Angeles. He received his BFA degree from Rhode Island School of Design in 2002 and his MFA degree from University of California, Los Angeles, in 2008. Solo exhibitions have been held at Harper's Apartment, New York (2017); Nino Mier, Los Angeles (2016); Edward Cella, Los Angeles (2014). His work has been included in recent group shows at Lowell Ryan Projects, Los Angeles (2019); Harper's Books, East Hampton (2020; 2018); and Brennan and Griffin, New York (2018).

Tursic & Mille (Ida Tursic, b. 1974 in Belgrade, Serbia. Wilfreid Mille, b. 1974 in Boulogne-sur-mer, France) live and work in France. Tursic & Millie's work is featured in public and private collections including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Consortium, Dijon; Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris; Musée Berardo, Lisboa; FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand. Tursic & Mille were awarded the Prix de peinture of Fondation Simone et Cino Del Duca, Institut de France - Académie des beaux-arts, Paris. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at: Consortium Museum, Dijon (2021); Museum Sztuki, Łódź, Poland (2020); Salon de Musique, La Villa Laurens, Agde, France (Public Commission).

Zhang Enli (b. 1965, Jilin, China) lives and works in Shanghai. He graduated from the Arts & Design Institute of Wuxi Technical University, China, in 1989. Selected solo exhibitions include Zhang Enli, K11 Foundation, Shanghai (2019), *The Bird Cage: a temporary shelter*, Galleria Borghese and the Uccelliera, Rome (2019), *Gesture and Form*, Firstsite, Colchester, England (2017); *Zhang Enli*, Moca, Taipei (2015); *Landscape*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce, Genoa, Italy (2013); and *Space Painting*, ICA, London (2013).