

In the XV and XVI centuries, Dutch and Flemish painters created a symbolic hyperrealist painting genre known as Vanitas. Inspired by the opening lines of the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible: 'Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities, all is vanity', those paintings depict still-lives, luxury objects, skulls and flowers aiming to raise awareness of the shortness and fragility of life and the vanity (in the sense of worthlessness) of worldly pleasures and ambitions. The ambivalent presence of these paintings – the moral approach is shadowed by the skillfully painted compositions, as if the artists could overcome death by giving permanence to the ephemeral – recall painting's primordial role as recording-devices of a certain time and luxury-goods that last centuries. The polished and seductive atmosphere of these images reminds us of our own bodies' finitude while offering sparkling promises of a lustful existence.

Marlene Dumas said: 'Painting doesn't freeze time. It circulates and recycles time like a wheel that turns, those who were first might well be last. Painting is a very slow art. It doesn't travel with the speed of light. That's why dead painters shine so bright.' Why do we insist on painting in a fast-paced world flooded with disposable snapshots and digital imagery that confusingly express our time's inexorable finitude, while promising escape and immortality (one can notice that simply by shifting the pages from the cover news to the science section of any newspaper, where symptoms of global warming and endless economic and political crisis meet planetary colonization start-ups and new anti-ageing techniques and life-extending drugs)? 'The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery,' the British painter Francis Bacon once said. So, here is a possible answer: we insist on paintings because they hold mystery. These mysterious objects, which supposedly outlive us have always acted as humanity's 'guarantors.' Paintings can as well baffle conventions and reinforce cultural paradigms and - besides its much-heralded death claims - it has been on a noted upswing in the past decade and remains an unquestionable reference point for art historians and critics.

Nowadays, the question of which artistic medium one takes up has become a critical issue. In this exhibition, we plan to investigate the reasons why very little has changed since the 1600s regarding painting's allure, social status (and market value) and mysterious power by assembling together the work of several artists, hailing from many different backgrounds and different times, who insist on painting. We will depart from *Vanitas* and medieval *Danse Macabre* imagery in its aim to recognize frivolity and mortality as subject matter to highlight the riveting and obscure aspects of this infamous media. Focusing more on the perception of these genres rather than their actual iconography, the exhibition intends to be, in fact, a gloomy experience as visitors weave their way through the heady and metaphysical atmosphere of the *Nightfall*. What is on view is the result of a pursuit for unrivaled, bewitching, heretical, cryptic, unorthodox, ulterior – or nearly impossible – forms of expression.

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Participating artists: Lucas Arruda, Semiha Berksoy, Pedro Caetano, Miriam Cahn, Tony Camargo, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Monster Chetwynd, Adriano Costa, Tiago Carneiro da Cunha, René Daniëls, Enrico David, Vincent Desiderio, Eliza Douglas, Nicole Eisenman, Bracha L. Ettinger, Celia Hempton, Rodrigo Hernández, Jacqueline de Jong, Sanya Kantarovsky, Allison Katz, Sanam Khatibi, Stanislava Kovalcikova, Patricia Leite, Maria Loboda, Patrizio di Massimo, Dawn Mellor, Daniele Milvio, Paulina Olowska, Osman Yousefzada, Santiago de Paoli, Rodolpho Parigi, Nicolas Party, Paulo Nimer Pjota, Autumn Ramsey, Mathilde Rosier, Giangiacomo Rossetti, Josh Smith, Lucy Stein, Gokula Stoffel, Emily Sundblad, Walter Swennen, Dorothea Tanning, Erika Verzutti, Kathleen White, Issy Wood, Amelie von Wulffen, Mark Van Yetter, Jakub Julian Ziółkowski

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DM



Enrico David Untitled, 2018 acrylic on canvas

85 x 98 cm



Issy Wood Good Listening, 2018 oil on linen

100 x 140 x 4.5 cm



Vincent Desiderio Hitchcocks Hands, 2012 oil and mixed media on canvas

162.6 x 167.6 cm



Lucas Arruda Untitled (from the Deserto-Modelo series), 2018

oil on canvas 18 x 24 cm



Jake and Dinos Chapman

One Day You Will No Longer Be Loved (that it should come to this...) XXIII, 2016 oil on canvas

83.5 x 71 x 6.5 cm



Erika Verzutti
Fauve Zombie, 2018
acrylic on bronze

43 x 35 x 10 cm



Jake and Dinos Chapman
One Day You Will No Longer Be Loved (that it should come to this...) II, 2010

oil on canvas

61 x 50.8 x 2.5 cm



Giangiacomo Rossetti

Still life with clementine and two devils, 2017 oil on canvas

100 x 80 cm



Pedro Caetano

insomnia dream catcher, 2018 oil and clock machine on canvas

40 cm Ø



Miriam Cahn

Soldat, 2010 oil on canvas

125 x 60 cm



Patricia Leite

Pesadelo, 2018 oil on wood

28.5 x 42 cm



Spartacus Chetwynd

Bat Opera, 2006 oil on canvas paper

26.0 x 32.0 x 2.2 cm



Monster Chetwynd

Bat Opera, 2007 oil on paper

15.5 x 20.5 cm





Marvin Gaye Chetwynd

Bat Opera, 2017 oil on canvas paper

15.5 x 20.5 cm (each)



Semiha Berksoy Salome, 1962 oil on masonite

240 x 122 cm



Daniele Milvio

Non sono rane (Sont pas des grenouilles), 2018 self-made water based colors, ink and oil pastel on canvas

256 x 115 x 8 cm



Erika Verzutti

Demônio, 2018 bronze and oil

42.5 x 53 x 10 cm



Santiago de Paoli

Cuadro con luz interior, 2017 ceramic, candle, oil paint

24 x 24 x 2 cm



Allison Katz

Cabbage (and Philip) No. 10, 2015 oil on canvas

43 x 35 cm



Mathilde Rosier

Impersonal Kingdom, The Queen, 1, 2018 oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm



Allison Katz

Cabbage (and Philip) No. 14, 2018 oil on linen

30 x 30 cm



Jakub Julian Ziółkowski

Liberate te Ex Infernis (Save Yourself from Hell), 2017 oil on panel

68 x 57 cm



Emily Sundblad

Untitled, 2018 oil on canvas

28 x 36 x 2 cm



Sanam Khatibi

Sinuous as a swan, 2018 oil on panel

21.5 x 16.5 x 2 cm



Rodrigo Hernández

Recuerdos Durmientes, 2018 oil on wood

 $30 \times 20 \text{ cm}$



Emily Sundblad

Untitled, 2018 oil on canvas

 $41 \times 52 \times 2 \text{ cm}$



Jakub Julian Ziółkowski

Candle Girl, 2016 oil on canvas

34 x 30 cm



Amelie von Wulffen

Please, Please Give Us Some Juice, 2017 oil on canvas

90 x 140 cm



Paulo Nimer Pjota
Tapestry for the death, 2018
acrylic, oil on canvas and iron plate

90 x 73 cm



Patrizio Di Massimo

I mostri che abbiamo dentro (The monsters inside), 2018 oil on linen

150 x 110 cm



Autumn Ramsey

Eros, 2018 oil on canvas

76 x 61 cm



Gokula Stoffel

The Ineffable Cision of Seeing, 2015 - 2018 oil on canvas

138 x 160 cm



Maria Loboda

Raw Material Coming form Heaven, 2018 installation

variable dimensions



Rodolpho Parigi

Nightfall, 2018 oil on canvas

60 x 91 cm



Osman Yousefzada

The Tiered Vision, 2018 garnment



Tiago Carneiro da Cunha Olho Monstro / Monster Eye, 2018 oil on canvas

40 x 75 cm



Walter Swennen *Flying Stones*, 2018 oil on canvas

50 x 60 x 2.5 cm



Josh Smith Untitled, 2015 oil on canvas board

30.5 x 22.9 cm



Stanislava Kovalcikova *Meine Natur*, 2013 ink on canvas

90 x 60 cm



Paulina Olowska

I Danced in front of the Opera Ballet - Krystyna Mazurówna, 2015 oil on canvas

200 x 170 cm



Giangiacomo Rossetti

Exit imago, 2017 oil on canvas

120 x 80 cm



Nicole Eisenman

Untitled, 2017 oil on cast aluminium

26.67 x 33.34 x 1.90 cm



Patrizio Di Massimo Untitled (This painting will crack), 2018 oil and metallic acrylic on linen

45.4 x 35.8 cm



Celia Hempton *Stromboli webcam, 19th January 2018*, 2018 oil on wood panel

35 x 40 cm



Lucy Stein Untitled, 2018 glazed ceramic

24.3 x 28 cm



Jacqueline de Jong Drôle de la chasse frustrée, 1987 oil on paper marouflé on canvas

130 x 100 cm



Kathleen White Jojo, 1991 hair, collage, watercolor, pencil, burns on phone book page

27.31 x 21.59 cm



Adriano Costa Column, 2015 mixed media

65 x 41 cm



Dawn Mellor Jean Marsch, 2017 oil on canvas

122 x 91 cm



Tony Camargo Dança com diabos, 2008 acrylic on canvas

39 x 30.5 cm



Sanam Khatibi I'll devour her by the night is over, 2018 oil on canvas

41.5 x 52 x 4 cm



Mathilde Rosier Girl and Bat, 2007 collage on paper

65 x 50 cm



René Daniëls

Untitled (el capitain), ca. 1981 ink, oil paint, ballpoint pen and chalk on paper

21 x 14 cm



René Daniëls

Zal ik mijn stoel afzetten?, 1982 watercolour, ink and chalk on paper

29.2 x 20.6 cm



Eliza Douglas Sweet juice, 2016 oil on canvas

210 x 170 cm



Bracha L. Ettinger *Mamalangue N.6*, 2014 - 2015 oil on canvas

25 x 25 cm



Bracha L. Ettinger Eurydices, The Graces, Demeter, 2006 - 2012 oil on canvas

50 x 43.5 cm



Eliza Douglas I Am All Soul, 2016 oil on canvas

210 x 160 cm



Sanya Kantarovsky Larping, 2018 monotype

56 x 45.5 cm



Dorothea Tanning *Potential*, 1968

watercolour on paper

45.7 x 54.6 x 3.8 cm



Mark van Yetter

Untitled, 2018 oil on paper

60 x 76 cm



Nicolas Party

Set of 15 Mezzotints, 2016 mezzotint

50.6 x 37.7 x 3 cm (each)