

NOON Projects

Chase Biado *Feywild*

Featuring: A History of Frogs *seven seilie bells*

April 29 –
June 4, 2022

Opening Reception:
Friday, April 29, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Musical Performances:
Suzanne Vallie:
April 8, 2022, 7 pm – \$30

Ben Babbit / Anja Salonen &
Friends: Date to be announced

Tickets available at
noon-projects.com

NOON Projects is a gallery in China-town, Los Angeles. Our program showcases artists who work from the heart, with a focus on queer-ness, the divine, the natural world, craft, and social practices. We host an ongoing program of dinners, concerts, meditation groups, and community happenings.

We aim to create a welcoming space for artists and the community to connect and flourish. Please come by and see us – you are very welcome here.

For Noon Projects' spring exhibition, we are honored to present *Feywild*, a suite of luscious oil paintings by artist Chase Biado. The work lauds the space of fantasy as an exploratory psychological realm, presenting a cast of characters whose identities are boundless. Defined by the intoxicating sensuality of Biado's palette and the whim of each picture's respective protagonist, the work swoons in the power of the unconscious.

The title of the exhibition borrows from the fantasy role playing game, *Dungeons and Dragons*. The *Feywild* is 'The Plane of Faeries,' a realm where the senses, emotions and color are not only heightened and expanded, but respected as powerful prowess. Rationale and the intellect are not the masters of this domain, and to enter, you must feel your way. Biado's metaphor here is multivalent, electric, and points a tapered finger towards a society more concerned with power than possibility. He uses the concept of *Feywild* as a touchpoint to champion the unconscious, opening the realm of dreams as a space to test true freedom and jettison/examine all of her tender baggage. With *Feywild*, Biado explores the spatial dimension of freedom as if to ask, how do we create space, where and for whom?

But in reality, fantasy is not a luxurious indulgence. It is woven into the everyday. For Biado, "fantasy is a psychological fact, wrapped around reality, molding it and propelling it forward. We are all constantly living in a fantasy, of who we think we are, and what we're moving towards."

Feywild is the free place. In the wake of a conceptual milieu, Biado paints. He flaunts color despite its reputed shroud of romance and heralds risk despite the probability of failure. And out of it, joy, death and reckless abandon, "like dancing at the end of the world." The characters he creates are beyond self-consciousness, as identity is without construct, and to be is full-blown — BWAMP! Pointed ears, rat brass, a wine-coloured atmosphere in which a flautist summons a glittering storm, a green-skinned figure runs through a tornado of tulip petals with their arms and hair flying, free — these are the emblems of a feeling of wildness that painting can conjure. It is an act of pleasure and life, of feeling, where the banal can be made psychedelic and there is space to be playful. "Because I believe [painting] to be actual magic, a conduit to the subconscious, a forever mystery."

Seven Seilie Bells

Biado and his partner, Antonia Pinter, creatively collaborate to form *A History of Frogs*. A.H.O.F. is a conceptual design project that issued forth from the couple's desire to introduce play-logic as supreme disruptor of the status quo. For the duration of *Feywild*, they present *seven seilie bells*, a collection of cast bells whose addition to the exhibition offers not only a lustrous sculptural element, but a sonic one as well. Each bell's tone is unique yet melodious, the respective pitch connoting achievement or reception, as if rendered intentionally in a key apropos to the castle. The term "seilie" is reminiscent of the Olde Scottish and nods to the culture's faerie folklore. Indicating happiness, blessings and good fortune, the bells offer revelation in proximity to *Feywild*.

Text by Amy Bernstein