

No Gallery/Valentina Vaccarella - International Gramercy Prize Award

September 7th to September 10th, 2023

The Armory Booth 430

Javits Center - 429 11th Ave, New York, NY 10001

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No Gallery is happy to be the recipient of the **2023 Gramercy International Prize** presented by **The Armory**. We are presenting a new body of work by represented artist **Valentina Vaccarella** made specifically for the Armory Show and the International Gramercy Prize.

Initiated by The Armory Show in 2019, the Gramercy International Prize awards a young and pioneering New York gallery a complimentary booth at the fair. Each year, the Gramercy Prize Winner is selected, in part, for their embodiment of the spirit of fair's founders—Colin de Land, Pat Hearn, Matthew Marks, and Paul Morris—in the support and celebration of the avant-garde.

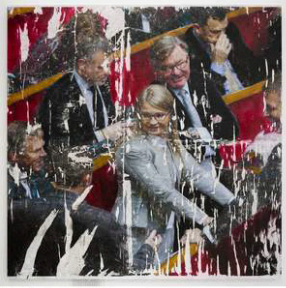
Taking **Yulia Tymoshenko** as Valentina Vaccarella's muse, this new series of seven wall-mounted works examines the subtle aesthetics of power present in the former Ukrainian Prime Minister's parliamentary presence. All images used in the works are taken from Tymoshenko's public Instagram account, inquiring into the psychology of self-representation, specifically within the context of powerful women. The photographs serve as starting points for the works, portraying Tymoshenko as the archetypal femme fatale — sharp-eyed and impeccably dressed, possessing elegance, sex appeal, beauty, and power.

Far from being simple, these aesthetic plays are rooted in a rich cultural history as much as they are products of PR consultants' minds. Following her corruption conviction, Tymoshenko hired image reconstruction specialists to support her run for office, resulting in her optical shift exemplified by subtle aesthetic changes. She was consciously and specifically rebranded as a modest village teacher, with a folksy braided hairstyle and light-colored, feminine dresses.

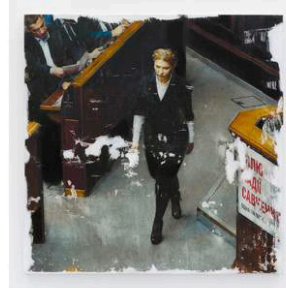
This new series pushes Vaccarella's practice in an increasingly painterly direction, with oil color embellishments pushing the compositions into increasingly unstable territory. At their most chaotic, the works epitomize feminine power, alluding to the hidden ruthlessness behind Tymoshenko's practiced smile. When most contained, the pieces become soft-edged and ethereal, mirroring the politician's adoption of folk aesthetics as a means of disarmament.

Valentina Vaccarella (b.1993, New York) is an artist who lives and works in Manhattan, NY. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include "Bless this Life" at No Gallery (New York, 2022); "Show World Order" at Other Subjects (New York, 2020). Selected group exhibitions have taken place at "Bright Lights, Big City & No Fun" – Shoot The Lobster – New York, NY (2022); "100 Sculptures (NYC)" – Anonymous Gallery – New York, NY (2021); "Daisies" - Pleasewait Gallery - Paris (2022); "Don't Trust Me I'm Homeless" – Ed Varie – New York, NY (2019). Her work has also been included in the Spring Break Art Show, New York (2019), and the literary social practice "Hard To Read (Pillow Talk)" – New York, NY (2019).

No Gallery is an ambiguously commercial gallery space established in 2019, located in the lowest of the Lower East Side, Manhattan. Founded with the intention of curating exhibitions capable of pushing the boundaries of contemporary programming, No presents works dedicated to a nuanced exploration of extant social, personal and cultural paradigms.



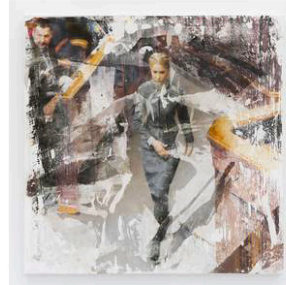
Valentina Vaccarella
Gas Princess, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
69 x 69 x 1 in.
175.26 x 175.26 x 2.54 cm
VV0020
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



Valentina Vaccarella
Ready to Wear 2, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 30 x 1 in.
76.20 x 76.20 x 2.54 cm
VV0023
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



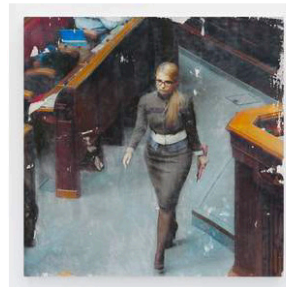
Valentina Vaccarella
Milkmaid, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
69 x 69 x 1 in.
175.26 x 175.26 x 2.54 cm
VV0021
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



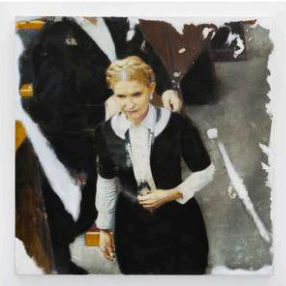
Valentina Vaccarella
Ready to Wear 3, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 30 x 1 in.
76.20 x 76.20 x 2.54 cm
VV0018
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



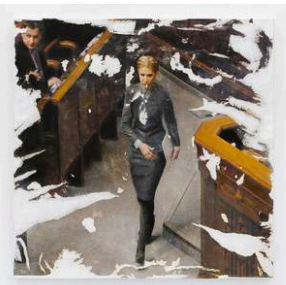
Valentina Vaccarella
Working Girl 1, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 60 x 1 in.
76.20 x 152.40 x 2.54 cm
VV0016
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



Valentina Vaccarella
Untitled, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 30 x 1 in.
76.20 x 76.20 x 2.54 cm
VV0017



Valentina Vaccarella
Working Girl 2, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 30 x 1 in.
76.20 x 76.20 x 2.54 cm
VV0022
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.



Valentina Vaccarella
Ready to Wear 1, 2023
oil, acrylic and ink transfer on linen
30 x 30 x 1 in.
76.20 x 76.20 x 2.54 cm
VV0019
Stretched on aluminum stretcher bars.