

A dark, atmospheric landscape featuring jagged mountains, a body of water, and a lightning bolt in the sky. The scene is dimly lit, with a small light source on the water's surface.

MIASMA

CHINO AMOBI





Chino Amobi

MIASMA

02 - 31 March 2024

von ammon co is pleased to announce the opening of *MIASMA*, a solo exhibition by American artist Chino Amobi. This is Amobi's first solo show with von ammon co and the gallery's thirtieth project in its current location.

Installed in a gallery whose floors are blanketed with low-lying fog are four large scale oil paintings on canvas, each depicting a dark empyrean mountainscape. Like all of Amobi's visual, musical and literary art, these panoramas are sampled from *EROICA*, the artist's foundational novel, published in 2020.

Set in the near but undefined future, *EROICA* imagines a global society where a messianist zeal for free exchange, speculation and extraction have supplanted sovereignty, community, and spiritual belief. In a society so disjointed and disoriented, even the global world capital—the metropolis of New Tibet—is a moveable feast, darting across the Eastern Hemisphere capriciously and opportunistically. A narcotic-fueled epicureanism has supplanted any erstwhile shared work ethic, and violence is ubiquitous. The corporate arbiters of taste—namely the eponymous *EROICA*—have donned the jackboots and claim dominion over the restless, bleary citizens of a society stripped of all tradition.



MIASMA, the common title for this particular series of paintings, though each work takes the name of a treasured mountain or range. Using the formulae derived in the 19th century for landscape painting, the compositions—taken alone—immediately evoke the virtues one would expect: natural splendor, sovereign power, and a bucolic sentimentality. Rendered in traditional oil-based media, their sheer virtuosity contains all the tradition's heroism and grandeur. Further pondering of these *unheimlich* but macrocosmic realms reveal an acidic tinge to the palette and a disjointed agglomeration of parts. For these brawny tableaux were not painted from an outdoor vista but generated using artificial intelligence, which does not count adoration among its metrics, but merely averages.

Even the very heroics of the painter have been denuded from these canvases: while it's known and accepted that even the greatest auteurs of the medium have employed workshops of assistants and followers to complete major works, Amobi's formal practice has taken on the disposition of his jeremiad text: despite having established himself as an adept single-author painter, Amobi has elected to outsource his artistic hand to a foreign supplier, and thus cast these canvases into the hyper-networked society he imagines so darkly in his text but—like so much speculative fiction—exists in the present. The finer detail of each painting is shrouded in the renaissance technique of atmospheric perspective; whether this is a watery mist or a miasma will be revealed later.





















omodi









Chino Amobi
Denali, 2024
oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
CA019





Chino Amobi
Nanling, 2024
oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
CA021





Chino Amobi
Yosemite, 2024
oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
CAM018





Chino Amobi
Mont Blanc, 2024
oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
CA020





Chino Amobi
Self Portrait of Chino Amobi, 2024
oil on canvas
12 x 9 in.
CAM021





Chino Amobi
Eroica Study 1, 2024
graphite on paper
14 x 17 in.
CA023





Chino Amobi

Born 1984 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, lives and works in Richmond, Virginia.

Education

2019 VCU MFA Graphic Design

2010 VCU BFA Painting Printmaking

2006 John Tyler Community College Certificate

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 *MIASMA*, von ammon co, Washington

2022 *Age of Excess*, Meredith Rosen, New York

Sextant, Fitzpatrick Gallery, Paris

2021 *EROICA*, Liste Art Fair, Basel

2020 Luma Westbau, Schwarzescafé, (cur. by Fredi Fischli and Niels Olsen in collaboration with House of Mixed Emotions)

2017 Endeavor Gallery, Richmond

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 *Coming Soon*, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris

2023 *Holy Village II*, Derosia, New-York

FOCUS GROUP 4, von ammon co, Washington

There should have been roses, HFKD, Holsterbo

2022 *Elephant's Leg*, Tonus, Paris

Corp, Residence Gallery, London

Scouring, Meredith Rosen Gallery, New York

FOCUS GROUP 3, von ammon co, Washington

2021 *Still Time*, Fitzpatrick Gallery, Paris

Giving Up the Ghost, Sow & Tailor, Los Angeles

Phantasia Bouquet, Sandy Brown, Berlin

Lust For Life, Part I & II, Edward Ressler, Shanghai



Selected Group Exhibitions (cont.)

- 2020 *Four Horsemen & the Apocalypse*, Shockoe Art Space, Richmond
- 2019 Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2017 *SCREEN: A Full Spectrum*, MOCA Los Angeles
- 2013 Cultural Affair Interstate Projects, Brooklyn
- 2017 Direct 2 Video Byrd Theatre Screening, Richmond

Performances

- 2022 MoMA PS1, NYC
Parkingston, Gaité Lyrique, Paris
- 2021 KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (curated by The Performance Agency)
Chino Amobi, organized by Kévin Blinderman, Treize
- 2019 Institute of Contemporary Art, Richmond
- 2017 Pop Rally, MOMA New York
New Museum, New York
ICA London
Museum of Modern Art, Moscow
Tufts University, Boston
- 2016 Wesleyan University, Connecticut
MOCADA Museum of Contemporary Art of The African Diaspora, New York
- 2014 University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Residencies & Grants

- 2021-2022 ArtExplora residency, Paris

Curation

- Co-founder of International Record Label and Art Collective
- Non Worldwide
- Director of Eroica