

rodolpho parigi
VOLUMENS

nara roesler new york

opening may 2

exhibition may 2 – june 1, 2024

Rodolpho Parigi, *VAM*, 2024 [detail]

Nara Roesler New York is pleased to present *VOLUMENS*, Rodolpho Parigi's first solo show in the US, which brings together around 35 new paintings made over the last two years. The exhibition title refers to a pictorial element widely used in Parigi's work throughout his career: elaborate volumes created in a two-dimensional medium, including paintings. This characteristic can be seen in the work of historical artists, who are considered references or inspiration for the artist, such as Pablo Picasso and Tarsila do Amaral. In *VOLUMENS*, his works of vivid colors, malleable, and ambiguous forms resemble body parts, organs, biomorphic forms, and sculptural abstractions.

Over the last year, the artist conceived the works presented in the show through the connections they establish with each other. Although *volumetry* is widely used in the paintings,

the shapes that compose the elements represented have a certain malleability, as if they were metamorphosing. Thus, the paintings share similarities, whether thematic or formal, which shown together, highlight the artist's poetic journey and the developments of his pictorial investigations.

In Parigi's words: "I draw and paint figures aiming to transfigure bodies and pre-established ideas, confusion of genres and the exploration of boundaries between real or simulated images. Bodies are fused and remodeled to transform the canvas or paper surfaces, where containments and expansions are negotiated within the physical limits of the support."

The exhibition includes references to artists and movements in art history, especially Surrealism, which celebrates its centenary this year. The ambiguity of the forms and their exuberant coloring

give the compositions a dreamlike and absurd aspect, which is close to the proposals of the artistic avant-garde. Parigi points out that the development of the works was a kind of dive into his own subconscious: “My work emerges from the conflict between reality and fiction. Through drawings, paintings, and performances I explore a universe of self-imagined fiction, inhabited by hybrid or androgynous figures of strange beauty, forms that inhabit the surface like living bodies that could even breathe or move.”

about rodolpho parigi

Rodolpho Parigi (b. 1977, São Paulo, Brazil) is part of a new generation of Brazilian artists who emerged in the early 2000s. The artist’s work lies in a liminal space between abstraction and figuration, entwining a series of references that range from the tradition of Art History, with particular emphasis on Rubens’ baroque corporeality, to graphic design, advertising, scientific illustrations, pop culture, anatomical planes, and music. Together with dance, music is notably responsible for orchestrating the gestural dynamism that characterizes Parigi’s figures, which emanates from formal and structural vigor, rather than from the nature of the brush stroke on the surface of the canvas.

Rodolpho Parigi notably summarizes his process with the statement, “there is something alchemical here.” Indeed, the artist operates with singular transfiguration anchored in a sense of excess, whereby he consolidates fragments of extremely diverse images and forms, through the use of saturated and luminous color palettes that construct a futurist retro. The minutely controlled process of execution and compositional organization amount to an ornamental strategy that resists traditional plays on perspective and forbids the gaze from resting, leading it to incessantly roam the canvas. In Parigi’s paintings, the high-tech present on the works’ thematic meets oil painting’s centenary virtuosity; while the organic merges with the artificial, creating an overall provocative sense of strangeness.

Rodolpho Parigi lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil. Main solo exhibitions include: *Latexguernica*, at Instituto Tomie Ohtake (ITO) (2022), in São Paulo, Brazil; *Fancy Performance*, at Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (2017), in São Paulo, Brazil;

Levitação, at Galeria Nara Roesler (2015), in São Paulo, Brazil; a solo presentation at Casa Modernista (2013), in São Paulo, Brazil; and *AtraQue*, at Galeria Nara Roesler (2011), in São Paulo, Brazil. Group exhibitions include: *Da humanidade: 100 artistas do acervo*, at Museu de Arte Brasileira da Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado (2020), in São Paulo, Brazil; *Da tradição à experimentação*, at Fundação Iberê Camargo (FIC) (2019), in Porto Alegre, Brazil; *Histórias da sexualidade*, at Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP) (2017), in São Paulo, Brazil; *Unanimous Night*, at Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) (2017), in Vilnius, Lithuania; *LOL Levels of Life 1- 2*, at Artspace (2014), in Auckland, New Zealand; *Works on Paper*, at RabbitHole Space (2011), in New York, USA. His works are part of numerous important institutional collections, such as: Instituto Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil; Museu de Arte Brasileira da Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado (MAB-FAAP), São Paulo, Brazil; Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia (MAM-BA), Salvador, Brazil; and Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil; amongst others.

about nara roesler

Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, representing seminal Brazilian and international artists who emerged in the 1950s as well as pre-eminent mid-career and emerging artists who dialogue with the currents put forth by these historical figures. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial practice while upholding the utmost quality in art production. This has actively been put into practice through a select and rigorous exhibitions program created in close collaboration with its artists; the implementation and fostering of the Roesler Curatorial Project, a platform for curatorial projects; and continued support to artists beyond the gallery space, working with institutions and curators in off-site shows. In 2012, the gallery doubled its São Paulo exhibition space, in 2014 it expanded to Rio, and in 2015 it opened in New York City, continuing its mission to provide the best platform for its artists to show their work.

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