

The Green Gallery is pleased to present its second solo exhibition by New York based artist Tony Matelli.

A vase of lilies stands precariously upended on a finished wooden pedestal. A flawless object. One gets the feeling that the flowers are poised there like a dancer as opposed to a monument of a moment before a catastrophe. Their elegance and improbability are entangled. The lily is a flower laden with symbolism in Western art – everything from chastity and purity to the innocence of the soul after death.

There are mirrors on the walls which look as if they are in need of cleaning. Who has written on them and with what purpose? The mirrors create the illusion that dust has settled on them because of neglect and the gestures and scrawl found on their surface were whimsical marks left by one or more anonymous individuals. Yet Matelli creates them by an assiduous stencil process of layering urethane and acid on the surface of the mirror. Matelli permanently fixes the meaningless scrawl as a transparent image which one is forced to mediate ones own image through. A type of filter that interferes and obscures.

Then we have canvases composed of wall rubbings with the “Tony Matelli Studio LLC” letterhead at the top. An odd form of self-portrait of the artist as business. The rubbings are of the artist's studio: the 'inside world' of the artist. A joke perhaps but a sober one at that. And bronze ropes draping over pedestals as if the sculptor insists that gestures can be more than marks from a brush.