

Varda Caivano, Rebecca Morris, Virginia Overton, Paul Pfeiffer, Elisa Sighicelli, Tabboo!

*June 21*

21 Jun–9 Aug 2024

The Upstairs at 39 Walker

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The longest day of the year, or the summer solstice, occurs around June 21, sometimes the day before or the day after. It is the day the sun reaches its highest point in the sky, traveling its longest path of the year, marking the first day of summer in the northern hemisphere. This June 21 also marks the occasion of *June 21* in The Upstairs at Bortolami, an exhibition featuring a constellation of works imbued with light by Varda Caivano, Rebecca Morris, Virginia Overton, Paul Pfeiffer, Elisa Sighicelli, and Tabboo!

Since the Neolithic era, peoples across cultures have observed the summer solstice with ceremony, performing transitory rituals or erecting monuments in its honor. In this temporary monument, twelve artworks line the gallery's perimeter as if in procession, or like numerals marking the timelines of the day, each one a fleeting undulation in the atmosphere. Keeping time is the ticking of the 16mm film projector casting Paul Pfeiffer's *Sunset Flash* on a loop, reproducing its shared moment of celestial serenity, as onlookers enjoy day's perpetual surrender to nightfall.

Varda Caivano (b. 1971, Buenos Aires) lives and works between London and Madrid. Recent solo exhibitions include *Lulu* by X Museum, Mexico City (2022); The Renaissance Society, Chicago (2015); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2007); Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg (2006). Recent group shows include *Spiral Garden*, Tokyo (2022); Zabludowicz Collection, London (2020); The National Museum of Art, Osaka (2018); Nottingham Contemporary (2014); and the 55th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2013).

Rebecca Morris (b. 1969, Honolulu, HI) lives and works in Los Angeles. Her recent survey exhibition at the ICA LA traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago in September 2023. Other significant solo exhibitions have been held at the Blaffer Art Museum, Houston (2019) and Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Holland (2014), as well as presentations at *Made in L.A.*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2016); the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art (2014); Wexner Center for the Arts (2018); and The Renaissance Society (2005). Other solo shows include those at 356 Mission, Los Angeles, and LAXART, Los Angeles.

Virginia Overton (b. 1971, Tennessee) lives and works in Brooklyn. Recent permanent public art installations include the Delta Terminal of LaGuardia Airport, Queens; The Refinery Building at Domino, Brooklyn; and *Hypermaremma*, Maremma, Italy. Recent solo exhibitions include those at the Frist Art Museum, Nashville (2022); Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art, London (2022); Socrates Sculpture Park, New York (2018); Don River Valley Park,

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Toronto (2018); the Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, Arizona (2017); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2016); Westphalian Art Association, Münster (2013); and the Kunsthalle Bern (2013).

Paul Pfeiffer (b. 1966, Honolulu, HI) lives and works in New York. His solo exhibition *Prologue to the Story of the Birth of Freedom* recently traveled from MOCA Los Angeles to Guggenheim Bilbao. Other major solo exhibitions include a retrospective at Sammlung Goetz, Munich (2011); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2009); MUSAC León, Spain (2008); National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2005); MCA Chicago (2003); and the Whitney Museum of American Art (2001). In 2019, as part of Bortolami's Artist / City project, Pfeiffer curated a group exhibition, *Exodus*, in the Watergate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Elisa Sighicelli (b. 1968, Torino, Italy) lives and works in Torino and New York. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include *Carla Accardi and Elisa Sighicelli*, 55 Walker, New York (2020); Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli-Torino (2019); Museo Pignatelli, Naples (2019); Libreria delle donne, Milan (2018); Museo Civico d'Arte Antica, Torino (2017); Museo d'Arte Moderna, Bologna (2011); and Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Torino (2011). Her work is currently on view as part of the exhibition *Narrative Obsession in the Post-Colonial Psyche* at the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York.

Tabboo! (Stephen Tashjian, b. 1959, Leicester, MA) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include *Karma*, Los Angeles (2023) and New York (2022, 2020); *Gordon Robichaux*, New York (2022, 2020, 2019, 2017); and *Howl! Happening*, New York (2016). His work is currently on view in *who's afraid of cartoony figuration?* at the Dallas Contemporary.