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### ***Our Souls at Night***

**Group exhibition with Omar Castillo Alfaro, Guendalina Cerruti, Gwen, Miriam Marafioti, Margherita Mezzetti, Gabriella Siciliano, Yulia Zinshtein**

**Opening reception: Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, from 12.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

**Duration: until April 5th, 2025**

**Exhibition venue: Casa Di Marino - Via Monte di Dio, 9, 80132 - Naples**

**Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 11.00 am 1.00 pm / 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm**

Galleria Umberto Di Marino is pleased to present *Our Souls at Night*, a group exhibition featuring works by Omar Castillo Alfaro, Guendalina Cerruti, Gwen, Miriam Marafioti, Margherita Mezzetti, Gabriella Siciliano, and Yulia Zinshtein.

The project is a global microhistory that seeks to capture the disillusionment of a generation—those born between the 1990s and 2000s—who grew up in a world without walls or borders, yet were the first to experience the weight of a failed linear vision of progress. They witnessed a technological evolution that was meant to bridge racial, sexual, political, and social divides, only to find themselves trapped in a global village where time has collapsed into an eternal present, overshadowed by an oppressive fear of the future. Instead of the promised optimism and sustainability, they are left navigating a fragmented landscape, where both human and natural bodies exist in a state of perpetual transition. Synthetic, digital, human, natural—matter itself transcends the rigid categories of modernity, becoming a vessel for generational nostalgia, a patchwork of dissonant yet contemporary narratives that refuse to coalesce into a single truth. What remains is a deep-seated melancholy, a longing for a past that feels increasingly unreachable, and a mourning not only for what has been lost but for what could have been—an ache for unrealized possibilities and broken dreams. This generation seems caught in an endless liminal state, hesitating at the threshold of an irreversible action, remaining *Forever Overhead*.

Through different artistic approaches, the exhibition explores various dimensions of loneliness. Yulia Zinshtein's paintings depict caricatured, sketch-like figures at café tables, embodying a struggle with human connection, while Margherita Mezzetti's collages of pale, smooth, almost surreal bodies merge everyday imagery with elements of fictional narratives, evoking a sense of unease. Miriam Marafioti paints a cartographic reality that blends real and scientific landscapes, distorting them with acidic colors and invasive natural elements. A darker and more unsettling vision emerges in the works of Gwen, who immerses the viewer in nightmarish imagery of monsters and witches, while Omar Castillo Alfaro revisits ancestral practices from his homeland, confronting the enduring impact of identity traumas in post-colonial narratives. Gabriella Siciliano's works capture the difficulty of leaving behind the liminal space between adolescence and adulthood, depicting stuffed animals and carousel creatures at rest, a theme echoed in Guendalina Cerruti's use of childhood toys—sparkling beads intertwined with a raw DIY aesthetic.

In these sometimes diverging stories, there seems to be no room for a future that is no longer something to look forward to with hope or build with effort, but rather a weight that this generation prefers to leave behind—to those who came before them.

## Omar Castillo Alfaro

Born in 1991 in Mexico, Omar Castillo Alfaro studied Chemical Metallurgical Engineering at the Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México (2014) before enrolling in the Visual Arts degree at the same university in 2018. He later participated in a residency at the Faculty of Arts in Medellín, Colombia. Omar graduated with honors from ENSBA-Lyon (DNSEP-Art) in 2022 and won the Prix de Paris 2022 at ENSBA Lyon. His solo exhibitions include: Tototl, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Paris, France; Naab - Taanaj, Guadalajara 90210 Gallery, Mexico (2024); Archaeology of Taste, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France (2023). Recent solo shows include: Remèdes et Poisons, Tropiques Atrium (Galerie La Véranda), Martinique (2025); LIV@E LIVE Post-Performance Future. Method/e, Centre Pompidou-Paris, Paris, France; Julio Artist-Run Space, Paris, France; DS Galerie, Paris, France (2024); Les Sillons #1, Contemporary Art Center of Ferme du Buisson, Noisiel, France; Another Land, Pilar Brussels, Brussels, Belgium (2023).

## Guendalina Cerruti

Born in 1992 in Milan, Guendalina Cerruti graduated from the NABA Academy of Fine Arts in Milan and completed her Master's degree at the Royal College of Art in London. Recent solo exhibitions include: Ohh... Youth!, V.O Curations, London; People Watching, New Low, Los Angeles (2022); Wasted Dreams, Public Gallery, London (2021). Group exhibitions include: Facile Ironia, MAMbo, Bologna (2025); Hot and Bothered (Nightmares in a Bed Full of Pillows), Alberta Pane, Paris; With Urgency, Ilenia, London (2024); Luminous Terrain, Atipografia, Arzignano (2023); Civil Twilight, Ginny On Frederick, London; SEPTEMBER ISSUES, Peres Project, Milan; Madrigale, VinVin, Vienna (2022); Primary Domain, Ordet, Milan; Old Friends, New Friends, Collective Ending HQ, London (2021).

## Gwen

Born in 2001 in Pitesti, Romania, Gwen graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree from the National University of Arts in Bucharest. Recent solo exhibitions include: Solitaire, Atelier 35, Bucharest (2024); Floating Through an Endless Dream, curated by Sibi Bogdan Teodorescu, Galeria Posibila, Bucharest (2022). Group exhibitions include: A Gentle Cruise, curated by Merit Zimmermann, JVDW Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany (2024); Playground, curated by Leonardo Pellicano and Yulya Say, Barriera, Turin (2023); Anima Mundi, curated by Stefania Carlotti and Margaux Dewarrat, 13 Vitrine, Prilly (2022); Light Clarity Avocado Salad in the Morning, curated by Horatiu Lipot, Jecza Gallery, Bucharest (2021).

## Miriam Marafioti

Born in Genoa in 1996, Miriam Marafioti graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence and obtained a Master's in Painting from the Albertina Academy in Turin in 2022. In 2018, she won first place in the "Art Clash" competition, entering the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Florina (Greece). In May 2021, she inaugurated her first solo exhibition Crocevia at the "Spazio Buho," an independent artist collective in Turin. Group exhibitions include: Second Life - Tutto torna, organized by Alia Servizi Ambientali Spa, Centro per l'arte contemporanea "Luigi Pecci", Prato; Haunted Garden, curated by Leonardo Devito, The Artist Room, London (2024); Mvtaforma, curated by Elisabetta Moiraghi for Drim Contemporary, Palazzo Atelié, Turin (2023); A Nudo, curated by Adriano Bimbi and Spartaco Papini, Academy of Fine Arts of Florence; Aula-23 Esperantina Pingendi – Pintura de Paisagem, curated by Aula 23, PIAUI, Esperantina, Brazil (2018).

## Margherita Mezzetti

Born in 1990 in Siena, Margherita Mezzetti earned a Master's in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. After graduation, she co-founded the artist-run space Bardadino in Venice in 2020. Recent exhibitions include: Cold Days Soft Glow, Galerie Burster, Berlin (2025); Untower Tryouts, curated by Mariia Varlygina, Bazsta Gallery, Krakow; Forever Unlimited, curated by CuntRemember, OHM, Berlin; Le Pleiadi, Candysnake Gallery, Milan; Eternal Quest, Culterim Gallery, Berlin (2024); There's More Than Meets the Eye, curated by Caterina Fondelli, Spazio Contemporanea, Brescia (2023); So Soft and Uncompounded in this Heart of Stone, curated by Rossella Moratto and Joykix, SUBPLACE, Milan (2022); Venice Time Case, an itinerant project by Luca Massimo Barbero, Galerie Italienne, Paris; Tommaso Calabro Gallery, Milan; NP Artlab, Padova; Monitor Gallery, Rome; Antonio Verolino Gallery, Modena; La Biennale Archivi Storici, Venice (2021/2022); Senza Tema, Massimodeluca Gallery, Mestre (2019).

**Gabriella Siciliano**

Born in 1990 in Naples, Gabriella Siciliano studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples. Recent solo exhibitions include: La casa di Wendy, LAB.oratorio, Fondazione Made in Cloister, Naples (2024); GUEST STAR Destiny, curated by Francesca Disconzi and Federico Palumbo, Osservatorio Futura, Turin; C di Coniglio, curated by Marco Bassan and Ludovico Pratesi, Spazio Taverna, Rome (2023); Mi manchi, curated by Gaia Bobò, Palazzo Braschi, Quadriennale di Roma, Rome (2022). Group exhibitions include: Cutting Clouds, curated by Marta Ferrara and Marta Wróblewska, Museo Madre, Naples (2024); Restart, Fondazione Carisal, Complesso di San Michele, Salerno (2023); Elliott, Gubbio Biennale, curated by Spazio Taverna, Gubbio; Dopodomani, Quorum, Festival of Contemporary Art, Quadriennale di Roma, Museo Nazionale Romano - Terme di Diocleziano, Rome (2023); Abbraccio, site-specific Cinema Beltrade, curated by Exit Strategy, Milan (2022); Sette Opere per la Misericordia, Pio Monte della Misericordia, Naples (2018).

**Yulia Zinshtein**

Born in Philadelphia in 1990, Yulia Zinshtein, born to Ukrainian parents, moved to Moscow at the age of 10. With the constant relocations in her life, she finds inspiration in movement and obtained a master's degree in painting from the Royal College of Arts in London. Among her recent exhibitions: You Are The Sole Actor In Your Life, The Bomb Factory Art Foundation, London; Anniversary Show, Haricot Gallery, London (2025); Guilford's Parlour, It's a Local Collective, London; Sweet Nothing, Donne Gallery, London (2024); Up Close and Personal, Haricot Gallery, London (2023); Clay D. D., Los Angeles (2022); A Show of Hands, September Gallery, New York (2020); Group Show, Baba Yaga, New York (2018); Planned Parenthood Gala, Pier 36, New York (2017); Body Talk, Project Gallery Studios, Toronto, Canada (2016); Feelings Film Festival II, Anthology Film Archives, New York (2017).