

RIBOT

Figure, not Figure

Emmanuelle Castellan, Scott McCracken, Mirela Moscu, Luca Zarattini

11 June - 17 July 2026

Opening on Thursday 11th June from 6 pm to 9 pm

RIBOT gallery
Via Enrico Nöe 23 - Milan

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday / from 3 pm to 7.30 pm
also by appointment

RIBOT is pleased to present *Figure, not Figure*, a project bringing together the works of four contemporary painters: Emmanuelle Castellan (Aurillac, 1976; lives and works in Berlin), Scott McCracken (Falkirk, 1987; lives and works in London), Mirela Moscu (Sibiu, 1986; lives and works in Cluj-Napoca), and Luca Zarattini (Codigoro, 1984; lives and works in Turin).

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. In painting, it is not.

The path leading from tangible reality to its representation is neither immediate nor linear. To move beyond it — to reach that “state transition” from figuration to the Informal through abstraction — requires a vital, precipitous, deeply personal leap. At times, this movement unfolds subtly and strategically; at others, it erupts into a catharsis of forms through moments of chaotic epiphany. The painter who emancipates themselves from strict fidelity to the real or the recognizable — to the familiar and the credible — embraces a risk that, veiled in ambiguity, may compromise plastic values historically regarded as resolved.

The project stems from this formal yet poetic reflection, giving shape to an exhibition that intertwines the practices of four artists from different backgrounds, united by layered and highly personal interpretations of contemporary figuration. At the core of the works — whether explicitly present or only faintly evoked — emerges the human figure: a presence that appears, dissolves, leaves traces, or survives as memory.

Emmanuelle Castellan's works are distinguished by incisive, sharp-edged gestures capable of defining suspended presences, caught in sidelong glances or immersed in shadowy atmospheres, like fragments of thought translated into painting. Alongside these visions stands the practice of Mirela Moscu, in which physiognomic traits seem to dissolve and merge into dense constellations of marks and chromatic touches, generating images in a constant state of transformation.

Meanwhile, Scott McCracken and Luca Zarattini develop pictorial languages in which figurative elements emerge as traces, echoes, or fragments. Recognizable anatomical, architectural, or landscape references persist, yet they appear to invoke a memory of reality only to redirect the viewer's gaze toward another suspended and evocative dimension.

The exhibition thus constructs a dialogue in which figuration never presents itself as definitive representation. Instead, the works invite viewers to linger within an intimate and sensory dimension where vision, memory, and imagination intertwine, completing themselves through the individual experience of observation.

What ultimately emerges is a language that is often hermetic and at times close to Surrealism — one that abandons the immediately recognizable in order to grasp a more essential and profound dimension of reality.

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Emmanuelle Castellan (Aurillac, France, 1976; lives and works in Berlin). Some of her solo and group exhibitions have been held at: Museum Langmatt, Baden, 2026-2022-2016; Concert, Paris, 2026; Ann Mazzotti Gallery, Basel, 2026-2025-2023; Scotty, Berlin, 2025; Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès, Japan, 2025; Valentin Gallery, Paris, 2024-2022; La Verrière, Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès, Brussels, 2024; Elsa Meunier Gallery, Paris, 2024; Hilbertraum, Berlin, 2024; BKV Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam, Potsdam, 2023; Luis Adelantado Gallery, Valencia, 2022; Kurt-Kurt, Berlin, 2020-2018; La Vigie, Nîmes, 2019-2008; Yvon Lambert Gallery, Paris, 2018-2014; Musée Estrines, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, 2017; CCA Andratx, Majorca, 2016; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2016; Pavillon Vendôme, Clichy, 2016; Frac Midi Pyrénées, Toulouse, 2015. Awards and residencies include: Cité des Arts, Paris, 2016-2017; Broadcast Posters, Moly Sabata, 2015; Ecotone, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Galerie Nord, Berlin, 2010; Kulturstadt Düsseldorf, 2009; Résidence Chamalot, Le Moustier Ventadour, 2009; Prix Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie, Musée des Abattoirs, 2007.

Scott McCracken (Falkirk, Scotland, 1987; lives and works in London) studied painting at Turps Art School, London (2015-2017), and Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh (2005-2011). Some of his solo and group exhibitions have been held at: APT Gallery, London, 2026-2025-2022-2019; Tobogan, Reset Atelier, Brussels, 2026; Terrace Gallery, London, 2026-2024-2022-2021-2020; Canal Boat Contemporary, London, 2025-2024; Thames-Side Studios Gallery, London, 2025-2024-2021-2019; Paul Stolper Gallery, London, 2025; Crane Court Gallery, London, 2025; Cubitt Studios and Gallery, London, 2024; The Bridewell, Liverpool, 2024; Turps Gallery, London, 2023-2018; ASC Gallery, London, 2023-2020; Exeter Phoenix Gallery, Exeter, 2023; HilbertRaum, Berlin, 2023; GalleriHi10, Skien, 2022; Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield, 2019; Municipal Augusto Cabrita, Barreiro, 2019; Les Maisons du Peuple, Brussels, 2019; Borough Road Gallery, London, 2018. Awards and residencies include: Hope Scott Trust Visual Arts Award, 2022-2015; PADA Residency, Barreiro, Lisbon, 2018; Darbyshire Prize for Emerging Art, 2017; Creative Scotland Open Project Funding Award, 2015; Edinburgh City Council Visual Arts Award, 2013.

Mirela Moscu (Sibiu, Romania, 1986; lives and works in Cluj-Napoca, Romania) studied painting at the University of Art and Design, Painting Department, Cluj-Napoca (2008-2010). Some of her solo and group exhibitions have been held at: Telegraph, Olomouc, 2026; Parter Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, 2026; Blain, London, 2025; Biju Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, 2025-2023; Space N.N, Munich, 2024; Plastic Contemporary, Cluj-Napoca, 2024; Zaratan Arte Contemporanea, Lisbon, 2023; Viewing Room 17, Cluj-Napoca, 2022; Cosmic House, Cluj-Napoca, 2022; CFHILL, Stockholm, 2021; Lateral ArtSpace, Cluj-Napoca, 2021-2017-2016; Suprainfinit Gallery, Bucharest, 2019; Jecza Gallery, Timisoara, 2019; Dedee Shattuck Gallery, Westport Massachusetts, 2019; Ethnographic Museum of Transylvanian, Cluj-Napoca, 2019; Frameless Gallery, London, 2018; Jahn und Jahn Gallery, Munich, 2018; Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, 2014; Nord Art, Budelsdorf, 2012. Awards and residencies include: Prisma Art Prize, 2025; Zaratan residency, Lisbon, 2023; Gilchrist Fisher Award, 2014; Workshop, Macerata, 2010-2009; Samuel von Bruckenthal's Guests, workshop, Avrig, 2009.

Luca Zarattini (Codigoro, Italy, 1984; lives and works in Turin) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Bologna. Some of his solo and group exhibitions have been held at: Dino Morra Gallery, Naples, 2025; Museo Tornielli, Ameno, 2025; Museo Midec, Cerro di Laveno Mombello, 2025; Galleria Battilossi, Turin, 2024; Nuraghe Cuccurada, Mogoro, 2024; Von Buren Contemporary, Rome, 2024; Dino Morra Gallery, Rome, 2023; Zanzara arte contemporanea, Ferrara, 2023; Museo della Ceramica, Grottaglie, 2023; Moodproject Gallery, Naples, 2022; Galleria Antonio Verolino, Modena, 2022; ViaFarini, Milan, 2022-2021; Museo Civico Luigi Varoli, Cotignola, 2021; Padiglione di Arte Contemporanea, Ferrara, 2020; Wadström Tönnheim Gallery, Marbella, 2019; Castello Ducale, Sessa Aurunca, 2018; Five Gallery, Lugano, 2018; Tirana - Durrës, Albania, 2017; Museo della Città di Rimini, Rimini, 2016; Interzone Gallerie, Rome, 2015; Pinacoteca Civica - Museo della Musica, Pieve di Cento, 2014; Nachbarschaftgalerie, Berlin, 2013. Awards and residencies include: Premio Museo Midec, 2025; Ceramics in love, Palazzo Botton, 2024; Premio di Ceramica Contemporanea Mediterraneo, Museo della Ceramica, Grottaglie, 2023; ViaFarini, Milan, 2022; Premio Nocivelli, Chiesa della Disciplina, Verolanuova, 2018; Combat Prize, 2017; ARTEAM CUP, Officina delle Zattere, Venice, 2015.