ALICE AMATI

# *OF MINOR IMPORTANCE*

HELENE APPEL, SILAS BORSOS, FERNANDO BOTERO, GEORGES BRAQUE, GIORGIO DE CHIRICO, SEBASTIÁN ESPEJO, DANIELLE FRETWELL, JOHNNY IZATT-LOWRY, SCOTT KAHN, GIORGIO MORANDI, AMEDEO POLAZZO, MIRANDA WEBSTER & ANDREAS ZAMPELLA

PART I

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY 25 JUNE, 6-8PM (CEST)
EXHIBITION DATES: 26 JUNE – 18 JULY, 2026
VIA ANGELO POLIZIANO 61 00184 ROME

PART II

OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY 15 JULY, 6-8PM (BST) 1
EXHIBITION DATES: 6 JULY – 15 AUGUST, 2026
27 WARREN STREET W1T 5NB LONDON

We are pleased to present *Of Minor Importance* – a group exhibition bringing together nine international contemporary artists and the works of modern masters Fernando Botero, Georges Braques, Giorgio De Chirico and Giorgio Morandi. The exhibition unfolds across the gallery premises in London and the project space Domus Nostra in Rome, creating a moment for a unique intergenerational and transnational conversation.

Rooted in the 17th-century European hierarchy of genres – a system that placed history painting at the summit of intellectual and moral value while relegating still life, landscape, and animal painting to the margins – the exhibition revisits and unsettles this inherited order. Bringing together works of modern masters alongside contemporary painters, the exhibition traces a lineage of attention to the so-called “minor.” In these artists’ hands, what once were considered modest subjects – such as fruits, flower, common tableware and everyday objects etc– are used to address the urgencies of the present and our place in this everchanging world. Rather than reversing the classical hierarchy, *Of Minor Importance* attempts to dissolve it, proposing a different set of values in which quiet observation, humor, intimacy, and persistence rival spectacle and narrativism. What emerges is a space where the overlooked becomes essential, and where painting speaks most acutely to the conditions of its time.

Helene Appel (b. 1976, DE) approaches still-life painting as a form of portraiture, where the focus shifts from an anthropocentric worldview towards the quiet presence of everyday objects. Rendered at a one-to-one scale with special paints and painting techniques, her subjects acquire a three-dimensional, sculptural presence and an empowering sense of autonomy that transcends the painted surface. Silas Borsos’ (b. 1989, CA) eclectic fruit arrangements appear playful and humorous at a first glance. Carefully staged and painted in soft colours, his oil on linen compositions acknowledge and contribute to the abundant symbolism of fruit through time, as both an expression of life and a constant reminder of the impermanence of life.

In his practice, Johnny Izatt-Lowry (b. 1995, Durham) deals with how imagery is processed in a digital age. Developed from a collection of stock, online images, he paints from memory creating a visual language made through the layered application of colour on crepe. There are no outlines to the objects depicted, they appear fuzzy as if the image on the surfaces was just about forming and already disappearing beyond our gaze. Starting from a similar point, Danielle Fretwell (b. 1996, US) is also interested in how we consume images in our digitally saturated world. Through hyperrealistic, meticulously details compositions she poses questions about the perception of truth and illusion within what stands in front of us. She begins her process by carefully arranging the subjects-objects in her studio, photographing them, and constructing new images that are visually seductive yet remain fundamentally inaccessible.

Sebastián Espejo (b. 1990, CL) blends abstraction, landscape painting, and figurative still life elements, working primarily on a small format. His layered surfaces are not immediately legible, yet they demand a slower pace and a deeper viewer engagement. These fragmented images become the connecting point between the visible, tangible reality and how our subconscious influences and reverberates it.

Scott Kahn (b. 1946, US) presents an never exhibited before still life painting from 1978. Both classical and contemporary, Kahn's 'Still-life with Apples' can be interpreted as an extension of the self and his lived experience of the quotidian. It is an early example of the artist's oeuvre which in his own word '[…]is driven and inspired by my life as I live it'. Amedeo Polazzo (b. 1988, DE) takes this concept even further with his new work 'Self-portrait as Carrot' (2026) where an oversize painting of a carrot stand as tall as the artist himself. Polazzo's subjects – apples, bananas or carrots, punctuate our everyday life, yet by means of repetition, scale and displacement, he transforms these elements from familiar to unconventional ones: turning the real world into an almost staged performance.

Miranda Webster (b,1991, NZ) paints from observation, allowing time to sit and connect to their subjects. Slowly accumulating detail over time, each tiny brushstroke turns into a manifestation of time, and defies expectations of high production and quick consumption. This slowness becomes a meditative experience and a caring act towards the painting. Moving between image and space, object and scene, Andreas Zampella (b. 1989, IT) constructs situations that appear slowed down, suspended in time and ultimately transformed into still life. In their immobility, the objects portrayed as well as acquired, as he paints on found bedsheet and kitchen cloths, take on a theatrical quality, continuing the artist's research on the idea that everyday life is a continuous spectacle.

In *Of Minor Importance*, each artist—from the modern masters Giorgio Morandi, Giorgio de Chirico, Georges Braque, and Fernando Botero to the contemporary artists—approaches the still life through radically different formal languages. Yet each turns to this enduring genre because it provides a space in which to explore fundamental artistic concerns, free from the distractions of narrative. Whether through observation, reverence, social critique, autobiography, slowness, or performance, these works ask us to look carefully and linger, gradually unfolding the relationships that exist between objects, bodies, histories, and ourselves.

For more information, sales enquiries, interview and image requests please contact: info@aliceamati.com

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# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## HELENE APPEL

Helene Appel (b. 1976, Karlsruhe, DE) lives and works in Berlin, DE. She attended the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg and completed her MA at the Royal College of Art in London. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Helene Appel / Paul Hutchinson', Marinaro Gallery, New York, US (2026); 'Un jour', Semiose, Paris, FR (2025); 'Helene Appel. ECCPROJECTS #26', Emanuele Catellani Contemporary, Turin, IT (2025); 'Background', The Approach, London, UK (2024); 'Try-Outs', Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, DE (2024); 'Among Trees, Among Sand Grains', The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead, UK (2023); 'Andature III: Helene Appel / Eva Marisaldi', Museo Marino Marini, Firenze, IT (duo, 2023); and more. Her work has been exhibited in group shows internationally at venues including Kunstverein Bielefeld, DE; Sies+Höke, Dusseldorf, DE; Galleri Bo Bjerggaard, Frederiksberg, DK; Abbott Hall, Kendal, UK; Kunsthaus BBK, Braunschweig, DE; P420, Bologna, IT; Lobe Block, Berlin, DE; KAI10, Arthena Foundation, Dusseldorf, DE (2024); Hamburger Kunsthalle, DE; HilbertRaum, Berlin, DE; National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST), Athens, GR; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, DE; Oberstdorf, DE and Foundation Thalie, Brussels, BE. Appel's work is in included in the collections of Hamburger Kunsthalle, DE; Moenchehaus Museum Goslar, DE; Olbricht Collection, Berlin, DE; Zabludowicz Collection, London/Sarvisalo/New York and Williamson Art Gallery & Museum, Wirral, UK.

## SILAS BORSOS

Silas Borsos (b. 1989, Toronto, CA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received his MFA from The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture (2020). Selected solo and two-person exhibitions include 'Fruit Theater', Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY (2024); 'A Shape Called Lily', Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY (2023); 'Paintings, Silas Borsos/Beaux Mendes', Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, New York, NY (2021); 'Silas Borsos/Seth Becker', The New York Studio School, New York, NY (2016) and 'The Big Apple', The Crack Gallery, Vancouver, BC (2015). Selected group exhibitions include ArtYard Center, Frenchtown, NJ; Studio d'arte Raffaelli, Trento, IT; Lelands Path, Chappaquiddick, NY; colbo, New York, NY (2026); Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY; Beak 585 Gallery, Osaka, Japan; Pamela Salisbury, Hudson, NY; Berry Campbell Gallery, New York, NY; Steven Harvey Fine Arts Projects, New York, NY. He is a 2023 recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant.

## SEBASTIÁN ESPEJO

Sebastián Espejo (b. 1990, Santiago, CL) currently lives and works in London. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'Sebastián Espejo', Sun Gallery, Seoul, South Korea (2026); 'The Other Summer', Union Pacific, London, UK (2026); 'Shorelinesp, Draper & Co., Montauk, US (2025); 'Balneario', Al Cubo Gallery, Valparaíso, CL (2023) and 'Pinturas', Corporación Cultural Viña del Mar, CL (2024). Recent group exhibitions include: 'Madeleine Moments', Union Pacific, London, UK (2025); 'The Way We Live Now', Sun Gallery, Seoul, South Korea (2025); 'Drift, Slip', House Gallery, New York City, USA (2025); '27 Estrellas en el Firmamento', Museo Palacio Vergara, Viña del Mar, Chile (2024) and 'England is a Forest', Sluice, Colchester, UK (2024). Awards and residencies include Brave Projects, Chapter 5, London (2026), Drumlanrig Castle Residency, HeritageXplore and The Dot Project, Scotland, UK (2025).

## DANIELLE FRETWELL

Danielle Fretwell (b.1996) is an American artist currently living and working in New Hampshire, USA. Fretwell received her BFA from Endicott College in 2018, and her MFA from Boston University in 2021. Recent solo exhibitions include Olney Gleason, New York, US (2026); 'Tablescapes', Alice Amati, London, UK (2025) and 'Shallow Invitations', Alice Amati, London, UK (2024). Selected group exhibitions include: 'Actual Notes', Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Rome, IT (2026); 'Les Dîners de Gala', Main Projects, Richmond, Virginia, US (2025); Lindon Gallery, London UK (2025); 'Support Structures', Sargent's Daughters, New York (2025); 'Enosis', Von Goetz, London (2025); 'Un Oeuf Is Un Oeuf, TJ Boulting, London (2024); 'Mi Basta uno Scorcio', Rubedo Arts, Milan (2024); 'Infinite Loop', Alice Amati, London, (2023);amongst others. She was an artist in residence at the 2025 Long Meadow Art Residency, MA and previously at The Studios at MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA in 2021. In 2023, she was awarded the MyMA Artist Grant. Her work is included in the collection of Sammlung Philara (Düsseldorf, Germany); Marval Collection (Milan, Italy); Niarchos Family Collection (UK / Switzerland); Taylor Family Collection (London, UK), amongst others. Her work has been featured in Whitewall Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Observer, Vogue Italia, Fetch Magazine, FAD, and Artsy, amongst others.

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## JOHNNY IZATT-LOWRY

Johnny Izatt-Lowry (b. 1995, Durham) lives and works in London. He holds a BFA in Fine Art at Ruskin School of Art and MFA Fine Art from Slade School of Art. Recent exhibitions include Miart Milan with Cooke Latham Gallery (2025); 'in and just outside of', Galerie Fabian Lang, Zurich (2024); 'Creatures and Masks', Galerie Fabian Lang, Zurich (2024); 'Marking Time', Cooke Latham Gallery, London (2024); 'At some point, the other day', M+B, Los Angeles (2023); 'And the smoke from a cigarette', Cooke Latham Gallery (2023); 'Around dusk, or thereabouts', Galerie Fabian Lang, Zurich (2022); 'GNOMONICS, AN ORANGE AND OTHER DRAWINGS', Galerie Fabian Lang, Zurich, CH (2022); 'A Table, with things on', Taymour Grahne Projects, London (online), 2021; 'Reigen', Galerie Fabian Lang, Fabian Lang, Zurich (2021); 'ONE', San Mei Gallery, London, UK (2021); 'An absolute reality', Tuesday to Friday, Valencia, ES (2021); 'Interludes', Workplace Gallery, London, UK (2021); 'Contemporary Domesticity', Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK (2021); 'By day, but then again by night', Cooke Latham Gallery, London (2020). Izatt Lowry's work is in the collection of the X Museum, China as well as numerous renowned private collections.

## SCOTT KAHN

Scott Kahn (b. 1946, Springfield, MA) lives and works in Westchester, New York, US. He received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in 1967. The following year, Kahn attended the Art Students League in New York and subsequently completed his MFA at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1970. In 2024, David Zwirner Hong Kong presented 'Scott Kahn: Once in a Blue Moon', the artist's first solo presentation in Asia and his first with the gallery since his representation was announced earlier the same year. In 2021 and 2022, Almine Rech held two solo presentations of Kahn's work in Paris and New York. Recent solo presentations include 'Afternoon of a Faun', Harper's Chelsea and Harper's Apartment, New York (2021); 'Soul States', ATM Gallery, New York (2021); 'Diary Continued', Harper's Gallery, East Hampton, New York (2019); 'Diary', Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York (2019) and 'Now and Then', Ober Gallery, Kent, Connecticut (2018). His work is held in institutional collections including the He Art Museum (HEM), Foshan, China; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Long Museum, Shanghai; and the Rachofsky Collection, Dallas.

## MIRANDA WEBSTER

Miranda Webster (b. 1991, Auckland, New Zealand) currently lives and works in Margate, UK. They studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, FR (2021), Slate School of Fine Art, London, UK and L'Atelier de Sèvres, Paris, FR. Recent exhibitions include 'Voir en Peinture', Musée d'Art Moderne et contemporain des Sables-d'Olonne, Musée Estrine de Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, and Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dole, FR (2024); 'Il faudrait que je me calme', Mendes Wood, Brussels, BE (2022); 'Aura Par Procuration', Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris, FR (2021) and 'Le Rayon vert - furtif et elliptique', private residence, Saint Ouen FR (2020) and 'Qu'est-ce que ça ne veut pas dire?', IESA gallery, Paris, FR (2019).

## AMEDEO POLAZZO

Amedeo Polazzo (b. 1988 Starnberg, DE) currently lives and works in London, UK. He obtained his MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, USA (2019) and completed his previous studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, DE (2016) and the Academy of Fine Arts Düsseldorf, DE (2014). Selected solo and duo exhibitions include 'Die Strudelhofstiege', Herald St, London, UK (2025); 'Hovering Life', Bel Ami, Los Angeles, US (2024); 'Bittersweet Periferia' with Aisha Christinson, Andrea Festa, Rome, IT (2023) and 'Whereabouts', Loggia Loggia, Munich, DE (2021). His work has been exhibited in group shows internationally at Mamoth, London UK (2024); Triennale Milano, Milan, IT (2023); Galerie Lore Deutz, Cologne, DE (2023); Kunstverein München, Munich, DE (2023); Edificio Kavanagh, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2021); Galleria Materia, Rome, IT (2021); ICS Seoul (2021); ChangJiang Museum, China (2021); MUAC, Mexico (2021) and Kunstverein München, Munich, DE (2021) amongst others.

## ANDREAS ZAMPELLA

Andreas Zampella (b. 1989, Salerno, IT) currently lives and works in Milan, IT. He graduated in Decorative Arts from the Fine Arts Academy of Naples, IT. Selected solo exhibitions include 'Il cielo sopra Milano', curated by Nicolas Ballario, Galleria Poggiali, Milan, IT (2026); 'Quarta dimensione', curated by Lucrezia Longobardi, Chiesa Stt. Trinità, Salerno, IT (2025); 'Eravamo cuori in Atlantide', Galleria Z20 project Sara Zanin, Rome, IT (2024); 'Dove Nascono gli uccelli', Nashira Gallery, Milan, IT (2023) and 'Passaggio al buio', Quadriennale ROma, Palazzo Braschi, Rome, IT (2023). Amongst his group presentations: 'BIENALSUR', curated by Benedetta Casini, Auditorium della musica, Rome, IT (2025); 'Be the difference with art!', Museo Casa Giorgione, Castelfranco Veneto, IT (2025); 'Intorno alla stella', Nashira Gallery, Milan, IT (2025); 'Building box', Building Gallery, Milan, IT (2024); 'Lettere intorno ad un giardino', Alfonso Artiaco, Naples, IT (2024) and more.

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