

SALON PALERMO 2

curated by Antonio Grulli and Francesco De Grandi

**CHIARA CALORE
MARTINA CASSATELLA
ROBERTO DE PINTO
BARBARA DE VIVI
ARONNE PLEUTERI
FRANCESCO MARIA ROMANO
DANILO STOJANOVIC
DOROTEA TOCCO
VITTORIO ZEPPILLO**

Opening Saturday 9 July 2022
from 6 pm to Midnight

Until 20 August 2022
from Tuesday to Saturday, 4 pm - 8 pm

RizzutoGallery is proud to present **SALON PALERMO 2**, a group show about new painting, curated by Antonio Grulli and Francesco De Grandi. The exhibition will be inaugurated on Saturday 9 July 2022 at 6 pm and will remain open until 20 August 2022, from Tuesday to Saturday, from 4 pm to 8 pm.

After the success of last summer's inaugural edition, this year's nine invited artists are:

Chiara Calore (Abano Terme, 1994. Based in Venice and Abano Terme), **Martina Cassatella** (San Giovanni Rotondo, 1996. Based in Milan), **Roberto de Pinto** (Molfetta, 1996. Based in Milan), **Barbara De Vivi** (Venezia, 1992. Based in Venice and Newcastle upon Tyne, UK), **Aronne Pleuteri** (Erba, 2001. Based in Milan), **Francesco Maria Romano** (Palermo, 1983. Based in Palermo and Hamburg), **Danilo Stojanović** (Pola, Croazia, 1989. Based in Venice), **Dorotea Tocco** (Cagliari, 1997. Based in Cagliari and Milan), **Vittorio Zeppillo** (San Severino Marche, 1998. Based in Milan).

"We arrive once more at our annual migration, a fixed appointment by now. Italian painting once more turns toward the sun, toward life, colour, warmth. We now understand how much we need, we now understand how much is healthy. To embrace still more closely the eroticism of vision, magic and mystery. Again. In Palermo as always, in the heart of the city, the perfect theatre for daylight and especially moonlight raids on its neighbourhoods, among museums, bars, piazzas paved with grey and red cobblestones, to breathe all the life that our lungs can grasp. The Palermo that for us is endless banter, infinite sweat, a thousand encounters; a unique school of art and life. The Palermo that in years unkind to painting has represented a place of freedom and resistance to homogenisation. In that wedge of land that seems a strip of Europe dragged down toward North Africa and the Middle East."

– Francesco De Grandi and Antonio Grulli.

RIZZUTOGALLERY
PALERMO

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RIZZUTOGALLERY

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Chiara Calore (Born in Abano Terme, 1994. Based in Venice and Abano Terme)

Calore's painting is defined by the juxtaposition of wildly varied figurative elements in ironic and visionary forms. Her canvases are crowded with a bizarre mass of impossible individuals, animals and freaks, parading the canvas in unfettered anarchy amidst a menagerie of references. Their allegorical power is reabsorbed into paintwork that abstracts its subjects, forging impetuous narratives revolving on fugitive gestures, syntheses and tensions internal to the medium's relationship with the surface.

At the end of her initial studies in art, she devoted herself to restoration in collaboration with an Art History professor. She is currently enrolled in the Painting department at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice. She has been a fellow of the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation. Her solo exhibitions include: *Locus Amoenus* and *Genesi*, both at Villa Draghi in Montegrotto Terme, and *Speculum Mundi* at the Davide Gallo Gallery in Milan. Her group shows include *MilanoVetro* at Sforzesco Castle in Milan; *Opera Viva* at the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation; *High Density* at the Magazzini del Sale in Venice; the *Premio Mestre di Pittura* competition show at Mestre's Centro Culturale Candiani; and *Laboratorio Aperto* in Forte Marghera.

Martina Cassatella (Born in San Giovanni Rotondo, 1996. Based in Milan)

Martina Cassatella was born in San Giovanni Rotondo, province of Foggia, in 1996. She spent her youth in nearby Manfredonia, where she attended the Liceo Classico Aldo Moro, graduating with a grade of 98 out of 100. After high school she moved to Milan, where she enrolled in the School of Painting at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts under Professor Marco Cingolani. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both cum laude, in respectively 2019 and 2021. She is currently based in Milan, working from her own studio.

To describe the indescribable means to render all forms of language equivalent, merging gesture, movement, light, and word – as in Antonin Artaud's 'Theatre of Cruelty', in which everything is above all ritual and magical. To tell a story that cannot be told.

Roberto de Pinto (Born in Molfetta, 1996. Based in Milan)

In Roberto de Pinto's paintings, certain meteorological factors – in addition to obvious geographical ones – prompt each subject to take off their singlets, to remain in their swimming costumes, to expose their naked skin to the sun's rays.

That skin burns and darkens to clay-rich earth and carbon: the same red and the same black of the divinities and heroes who so decoratively crowded ancient vases. Chests decorated by the sun, painted by the shadows cast across them. Bodies stripped 'naked', which show rough skin covered in hair – sweaty, porous, callused and simple: sensitive to the touch, sensitive to contact. In an everyday environment, such 'imperfections' would provoke repulsion and disgust; on canvas they can be fully displayed and still be appreciated as forms of beauty.

These paintings' surfaces are entrusted to the encaustic that is a fundamental component of their process. Mixed with pigments, earth and charcoal, the wax creates a patina that recalls the time-worn surface of a frescoed wall.

Barbara De Vivi (Born in Venice, 1992. Based in Venice and Newcastle upon Tyne)

Barbara De Vivi graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice in 2018 after participating in the Erasmus+ project at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. She was a resident artist at the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation in Venice in 2017 and won the Combat Prize the same year. In 2018 she won the Euromobil Under 30 Award. In 2021 one of her works was selected by the curator

Chus Martinez for the Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo Collection and presented to the public in the exhibition *Painting in Person*, under the aegis of the Castello di Rivoli Museum. Since 2021 she has been based in Venice and Newcastle upon Tyne.

Her practice is centred on the hybridisation and superimposition of images, investigating their ability to endure over time and to re-emerge in new contexts. In her paintings, the artist juxtaposes traditional iconographic motifs with personal imperatives and a fund of images founded in contemporary aesthetic sensibilities, outlining stories that remain open and fragmented while drawing upon a shared cultural heritage.

Aronne Pleuteri (Born in Erba, 2001. Based in Milan)

Aronne Pleuteri was born in Erba on April 7, 2001. A childhood in Erba introduced him to the stagnant waters of the area's lakes, where he frequented their silent inhabitants. Amidst that silence he began to play the flute. Thanks to those peculiar middle-school frequentations he duly won the lake of Alserio's prestigious improvisational painting prize for three years in a row. Returning triumphant from these mighty victories, he convinced himself to enrol at Milan's Brera Academy of Fine Arts in 2019. Having got to know the city's fauna, more raucous than his friends in the Brianza region, he decided to move to Milan, in the bacchanalia of which he is now based. After notching up several group exhibitions, he presented his first solo show in February 2022 at Lecce's Spazio Su, where he parodied death and its victims.

Pleuteri's playful attitude toward worldly things revitalises imaginative possibilities, opening the gates of a collective universe.

Francesco Maria Romano (Born in Palermo, 1983. Based in Palermo and Hamburg)

Francesco Maria Romano's painting is a mysterious narrative in which personal exploits and vicissitudes are intertwined with journeys either real or fictitious, imaginary or invisible. Romano's internalised universe underlines art's ability to cast light on new and unexplored landscapes, in an investigation of alternative potentials and dimensions. Dreams and realities merge and blur in a potpourri of memories and recollections, inviting visitors to investigate the boundaries between external and internal worlds.

Romano graduated in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts of Palermo. In 2014 he won an artist's residency in Düsseldorf through a collaboration between the SACS Archive-Palazzo Riso Contemporary Art Museum and the Kunstverein zur Kunstaustellungen. Also in 2014, he was included in the SACS Archive and his work entered the Palazzo Riso collection. In 2016 his work entered the Academy of Fine Arts of Palermo's permanent collection of artist's books.

Danilo Stojanović (Born in Pula, Croatia, 1989. Based in Venice)

Danilo Stojanović's visual poetics is rich in the dichotomies of ideologically-opposed artistic currents, which he translates into images of an original, authentic and harmonious identity.

The painter, Istrian by birth but Venetian by adoption, suffuses his (generally small or medium-sized) canvases with a flowing, mercurial atmosphere, often rendered in a cold palette. Painted objects seem to float within it, swallowed whole. While acknowledging his debt to Italian metaphysical painting, with its mysterious and enigmatic settings, Stojanović creates scenarios entirely stripped of geometric perspective: indeed, perspectival rigour becomes superfluous to a dimension in which spatial composition is based entirely on positioning and on relationships within a population of extraordinary entities.

He attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice where in 2018 he obtained a master's degree in

Visual Arts and Performing Arts, specialization in Painting. Recent exhibitions include: Shoreline, James Fuentes Online, NY (2022); I Walk Thru Walls, Mepaintsme, (2022); Carnival Dream, G / ART / EN Gallery, IT (2022); Mourning the Red Cactus, Andrea Festa Fine Art, IT (2021); 07, PM / AM, UK (2021); Les Danses Nocturnes, Eastcontemporary / Spread Museum, FR (2021); Swarm: Balla Balaclavas and the Shithead Baroque, Super Dutchess, NY (2020); Be careful what you wish for (the fire is in the underbelly), U10 Art Space, RS (2019).

Dorotea Tocco (Born in Cagliari, 1997. Based in Cagliari and Milan)

Dorotea Tocco's works take aberrant forms, betraying thought patterns that deviate from everyday morality. Her principal subjects are women investigating their own femininity; no longer presented as paintings' optical playthings, as scenery, they are enunciated afresh. These inappropriate bodies convey a desire for absolute self-determination, in opposition to the guiding preconceptions of a monolithic society. Kinky habits, smut and excess become strategies for the conquest of a personal dimension.

The domestic environment becomes a theatrical backdrop to the cruelty of bodies free of any sanctification. Environments that demolish gender, individuality and compliant roles in preparation for a new hybrid identity: autonomous, disobedient, rebellious bodies opposed to all social and aesthetic norms.

Vittorio Zeppillo (Born in San Severino Marche, 1998. Based in Milan)

With a practice founded in graffiti, Zeppillo currently studies at the Academy of Fine Arts of Urbino. The protagonist of an aesthetic of contrasts, he presides over a variety of discordant oxymorons: the surfaces are now opaque, now polished; now arid, now doughy; now immaculate, now soiled. These ambiguous dichotomies are relayed through perpetually self-contradictory brushwork, conveyed in agitated and hopelessly fractured gestures.

A hybrid bestiary inhabiting dreamlike settings and breathing toxic atmospheres, his pictorialism transcribes his innate lens on the world.