

PRESS RELEASE

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GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER at ART TORONTO 2018

Regensburg, Germany. GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER is excited to return to Art Toronto for the third time in a row.

The gallery was founded in late 2010 as a gallery for contemporary art by the art historian Dr. Isabelle Lesmeister in Regensburg, Germany. The intention is to promote young non-established artists, who were born after 1970 and have graduated from an art academy. In the context of traditional gallery work, GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER supports the artists to become successively established in the national and international art market. The fact that the gallery owner likes travelling and getting to know new people and cultures proves the gallery's international character through selected art fairs and collaborations with artists from all over the world, as well as partner galleries and a variety of institutions. Besides presenting artists at several art fairs throughout Europe, the US and Canada, the gallery organizes approximately five to six temporary exhibitions with works in the fields of painting, graphic, object, sculpture and photography each year, giving a special emphasis to innovative imagery and extraordinary technique.

A deliberate relation to the various art historic genres and motives, and the witting use of old-established, traditional techniques for creating contemporary artworks result in those unique creations by the artists represented by GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER.

The following artists will be featured at ART TORONTO 2018:

Giulia Dall'Olivo (* 1983) ITA

Jeremy Holmes (* 1984) USA

Camille Hannah (* 1977), AUS

Jenny Forster (* 1979), GER

Mabel Poblet (* 1986), CUB

Maria Agureeva (* 1985), RUS

Giulia Dall'Olio's paintings take us on a journey through visionary, mystic landscapes in places, where nature still asserts itself against the destructive and outrageous deprivation of modern mankind. Nature is truly magnified in her works, revealing its very essence and the concrete rules by which it abides. Uncultivated lands, dominated by the lush foliage of shrubs and ancient trees; limitless tracts traversed gushing rivers; landscapes dominated by clear skies and bathed in eternal silence. This tranquil state, however, is only apparent. The panel is scored, encaged and fragmented by the radical gestures with which **Giulia Dall'Olio** snaps the classicism of her paintings. The nature she depicts suffers. Everything is still, almost motionless in these works. A system in perfect balance, supported by a creative will that has chosen hyper-realistic reproduction, evidence of the technical mastery that Giulia possesses when painting, encourages us to dwell on these places in prolonged, ecstatic contemplation.

(Leonardo Regano)

The abstract wooden sculptures of **Jeremy Holmes** epitomize three dimensional line drawings in space to establish a connection between the beholder, the room and his works. He is using traditional woodworking techniques to generate a unique way of twisting, filling and creating space, he soaks the thin wooden panels in water before utilizing a free form bending method to mould the sprawled boards into abstract shapes. After the wood has dried, he paints the segments and compounds them into various configurations, thereby fabricating sculptures ranging from small and handy to a space-consuming length over 1000 feet. The installations, which can be freestanding, wall or ceiling mounted, cooperate with the architecture surrounding them to construct a novel and unexpected space, while emphasizing their materiality. **Holmes** deals with the perception of space and its transformation through his work by filling interiorly voids that otherwise stay note less and call the viewers attention to the volume of a room as they are observing his sculptures twisting and twirling through the air space.

Camille Hannah's paintings predicate a model of painting born from within the frame of technology; they are embedded in twenty- first century gestural abstraction while conceptually vested in digital and screen technologies. Harnessing the contemporary aesthetic of mediated appearance, whilst acknowledging that painting is equally indebted to art history, her work draws from the influence of the screen paradigm through notions related to fluidity, painting as object/surface and the perception of interactivity. Traversing the paradox between the prohibition of touch in relation to digital technology and art and the erotics of painting interactivity relates to seduction: a correlation that seeks to engage the viewer immediately in a tactile participation, close and yet distancing at the threshold of vision and touch, while simultaneously providing the viewer with a variable experience of scale.

Jenny Forster's work focuses on the symbiosis of material, paint and the experience of the room. Within a complex system, these categories generate a level of perception, which oscillates between illusion, construction and abstraction. At this juncture she sources her inspiration from the art historic past. **Forster's** works are oftentimes reminiscent of classical pictorial genres, such as landscapes or portraits. Withal, they display an almost abstract state, that brings the viewer on a journey through an associative spectrum of multiple possible interpretations and experiences of space as such. Her latest works have been influenced by **Forster's** research trip to Tokyo, where the artist spent many months studying the motif of mirrors and the way they have been perceived and interpreted throughout the history of art.

Born in Cuba, the artist **Mabel Poblet** is one of the most exciting young artists to emerge from the Havana art scene. Her work demonstrates a technical mastery learned and developed at ISA and a natural ability to overlay media and trends. She describes her works as the result of self-referential experiences she has collected in the past and the impacts those memories had on the present. Her work ranges from photography, video and installations to a reinterpretation of pop and kinetic art. **Poblet**, who represented Cuba in the national Cuban pavillion at the *Venice Biennale* in 2017, is known for her impressive self portraits that she intertwines with motifs surrounding the topic of water. The artist's spatial installations show small rectangular shapes reflecting bright blue, pink and metallic colors, as well as mirrored glass, a myriad of them arranged like a mobile, or assembled and mounted onto walls as a circular sculpture. Ranging from abstract shapes and spaces, to figurative portraits captured on camera, **Poblet's** work is everything but impersonal – with every piece of work she knows it well to capture changes and feelings and the duality of the human soul, as she experiences them through her own relationship with everything that surrounds her.

Maria Agureeva is a young contemporary artist, born in Russia and currently based in the US. She works with installation, sculpture, objects, video, and performance. She is the winner of the Laguna Art Price (special price) in 2018. In her artistic practice Maria studies the space of a body as an object, which unites body corporality and mind uniqueness. Her art is focused on studying the tension between normality and subjectivity, investigating the attractiveness criteria and the necessity of making a perfect image. In her series of latex works, **Agureeva** takes advantage of contrasting materials. As if carelessly, she pours the quirky folds of the soft and flexible "second skin" with semi-transparent colored plastic. Bright fluorescent stains, pools, and drips layer up and get set over the crumpled latex sheet. It is for a reason that now Agureeva uses inversion, and tests not only flesh-toned, but also colored latex, as well as black plastic. As if obeying the idealistic imperative of today's mass culture, the artist transforms the human prototype, imperfect and perishable, into an attractive object, a striking blend of various materials per se.

We are looking forward to see you at our Booth at Art Toronto, were we will happily provide you with more material on the artists as per your demand.

Pictures attached: © GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER

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