

CASSINA PROJECTS

For Immediate Release

Ió

Rebecca Brodskis, Diane Dal-Pra, Maria Fragoso, Bambou Gili

February 18 – April 30, 2021

Opening Reception: Thursday February 18, 2021 11 am – 9 pm

The myth of Ió - first priestess of Hera, the wife of Zeus - is quintessentially a story of torment, metamorphosis and, above all, lust. Desire, regarded as a gravitational force transcending aesthetics and form, governs immortal gods and humans alike.

Beautiful nymph and mortal lover, Ió was seduced by Zeus, king of the gods, and transformed into a heifer to be concealed from his jealous wife, Hera. Hera, still somewhat suspicious, demanded the heifer as a gift forcing Zeus to reluctantly hand her over to her care. Argos, who had hundred eyes, was sent to guard Ió and prevent Zeus from visiting her. Yet Zeus, succumbing to the most uncontrollable impulse of desire, in turn, sent Hermes to distract and eventually slay Argos. When Ió was freed, still in the form of a heifer, Hera directed a gadfly to sting her continuously, driving her to wander around unknown territories without rest. Once in Egypt, Ió was finally rescued and restored to human form by Zeus himself. Here she gave birth to Zeus' children.

The exhibition brings together a selection of figurative works by contemporary artists, exploring the notion of identity with an emphasis on the sublimation of desires and unconscious drives that define female experience.

The broad spectrum of aesthetic contaminations and the various ways in which art historical references camouflage into these contemporary narratives, reflect the intricate juxtaposition of overarching social constructs and individual instincts, as the drama of the human body encapsulates the multidimensionality of today existence.

Enigmatic and fuelled by a yearning for intimacy, the works on show tap into the surrealist territory, dreamlike arena where myriads of subjectivities take shape and perform.

Rebecca Brodskis' (*1988) repertoire of graceful characters plays out against anonymous backgrounds. Stripped of any context and suspended in a permanent motionless present, their personalities, desires, stories, in one word, their distinctiveness can only be inferred by their pose. In her resonant compositions, **Diane Dal-Pra** (*1991) dissects and reconstructs identity into a convoluted entanglement of accessories, costumes and body. Figures and objects which bury them merge into one as likewise our persona inexorably blends with the image we construct. **Bambou Gili's** (*1996) uncanny paintings elicit a fluid tension as cerulean tones and light shards loom over her *non-chalant* long-armed figures. Vivid with symbolism and imbued with the aesthetics of her Mexican heritage, **Maria Fragoso's** (*1995) works on paper have an alluring tactile quality. Through her typical use of red colour as a *passe-partout*, the artist unlocks inner desires and the instinctive quest for intimacy.

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Rebecca Brodskis (*1988, France) currently lives and works in Paris. She studied painting at the Ateliers des Beaux Arts de la Ville de Paris and at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design in London (2010). She had solo exhibitions at Steve Turner LA (2020); Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin (2020); Septième Galerie, Paris (2019); Gallery Mario Kreuzberg, Berlin (2019) Sputnik Gallery, Tel Aviv (2017).

Diane Dal-Pra (*1991, France) currently lives and works in Paris. She graduated with a BA in Design from the University Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux (2013) and received special mention from the jury for a postgraduate in Art from Lesarènes, Toulouse (2015). Dal-Pra has collaborated with prestigious brand such as Gucci (2019). She was artist in residency at Palazzo Monti, Brescia, Italy (2019). She was also part of a residency project at Villa Noailles (Hyères, France). Solo exhibitions include: "Acqua in Bocca", Galerie Derouillon, Paris (2020), "Of Course You Are", Cob Gallery, London (2020).

Maria Fragoso (*1995, Mexico) lives and works in Mexico City. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College Art (MICA). She has been artist in residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Yale Norfolk School of Art, Vermont Studio Center Fellowship and Palazzo Monti, Italy. Recent exhibitions include "Miami is a Beach", 1969 Gallery, NY; "A Very Anxious Feeling: Voices of Unrest in the American Experience" (20 Years of the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection), Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA; Second Smile, The Hole, NY; "New on the block", Machete, Mexico City; and "No Place Like", Field Projects, NY. She was recently nominated for the 2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 in Art & Style.

Bambou Gili (*1996, New York), lives and works in NY. She has earned a BA in Psychology & Studio Art from the New York University. Her work has been presented at Arsenal Contemporary, NY (2020), Monya Rowe Gallery, NY (2020), PUBLIC Gallery, London (2020), Wallplay, NY (2019), The Commons at The Barney Building, NY (2018).

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Saturday | 11 am – 7 pm

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Comunicato Stampa

Ιώ

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18 febbraio – 30 aprile, 2021

Opening: giovedì 18 febbraio, 2021 11-21

Il mito di Ιώ, prima sacerdotessa di Hera, moglie di Zeus, è la quintessenza di una storia di tormento, metamorfosi e soprattutto desiderio. La passione, considerata come una forza gravitazionale che trascende estetica e forma, governa gli dei immortali al pari degli esseri umani.

Ninfa piacente e amante mortale, Ιώ venne sedotta da Zeus e trasformata in giovenca per essere nascosta dalla gelosia della moglie Hera. Hera, comunque sospettosa, chiese la giovenca in regalo a Zeus ed egli seppur riluttante fu così costretto a cederla. Argo, che aveva cento occhi, fu mandato da Hera a fare la guardia a Ιώ in modo che Zeus non potesse farle visita. Tuttavia Zeus, alle prese con un incontrollabile desiderio, incaricò Hermes di distrarre ed uccidere Argo. Ιώ venne così liberata, ancora nelle sembianze di una giovenca, ma Hera le diresse contro un insetto che la pungesse senza sosta, obbligandola di fatto a vagare senza pace attraverso territori sconosciuti. Una volta giunta in Egitto, fu Zeus in persona a salvarla e a restituirle tratti umani. Qui Ιώ darà alla luce i figli di Zeus.

La mostra riunisce una selezione di opere figurative di giovani artiste che esplorano il concetto di identità con un' enfasi sulla sublimazione del desiderio e dei moti inconsci che definiscono l'esperienza femminile.

L'ampio spettro di contaminazioni estetiche e i molteplici modi in cui i riferimenti artistici riecheggiano in queste narrazioni contemporanee, riflettono il denso intreccio di costrutti sociali e istinti individuali, mentre il patos insito nella figura umana riassume la multidimensionalità dell'esistenza odierna.

Enigmatici e animati dal desiderio di riscoperta di intimità, i lavori in mostra attingono dal linguaggio del Surrealismo, teatro onirico dove miriadi di identità prendono corpo e si esibiscono.

Rebecca Brodskis (*1988) colloca il suo repertorio di eleganti silhouette su sfondi anonimi. Privati di un contesto e sospesi in un eterno presente statico, personalità, desideri, storie e tratti distintivi possono solo essere timidamente evinti dalle loro pose. Nelle sue composizioni ricche di dettagli, **Diane Dal-Pra** (*1991) disseziona e riassume l'identità fino a farla risultare un contorto groviglio di accessori, costumi e corpi. Le figure e gli oggetti che le coprono diventano una cosa sola, allo stesso modo la nostra individualità si perde nell'immagine che noi stessi costruiamo. Dai dipinti di **Bambou Gili** (*1996) si evince una tensione quasi fluida, laddove toni cerulei e raggi luminosi infondono un alone di mistero che incombe sulle figure, quasi caricaturali ai nostri occhi ma distaccate e tranquille in un tempo indefinito. Intrisi di simbolismo e delle vibranti estetiche della cultura messicana, i lavori su carta di **Maria Fragoso** (*1995) godono di una qualità tattile, seducente e diretta. Attraverso il suo tipico uso del rosso come *passé-partout* emozionale, l'artista dà libero sfogo a desideri reconditi e all'istintivo bisogno di intimità.

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Rebecca Brodskis (*1988, Francia) vive e lavora a Parigi. Ha studiato pittura presso l'Ateliers des Beaux Arts de la Ville de Paris e al Central St. Martins College of Art and Design a Londra (2010). Tra le mostre personali: Steve Turner LA (2020); Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin (2020); Septième Galerie, Paris (2019); Gallery Mario Kreuzberg, Berlin (2019) Sputnik Gallery, Tel Aviv (2017).

Diane Dal-Pra (*1991, Francia) vive e lavora a Parigi. Ha conseguito la laurea in Design presso l'University Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux (2013) e ha ricevuto una menzione speciale dalla Jury for a postgraduate in Art from Lesarènes, Toulouse (2015). Dal-Pra ha collaborato con prestigiosi brand come Gucci (2019). È stata in residenza a Palazzo Monti, Brescia (2019) e a Villa Noailles (Hyères, France). Tra le mostre personali: *Acqua in Bocca*, Galerie Derouillon, Paris (2020), *Of Course You Are*, Cob Gallery, London (2020).

Maria Fragoso (*1995, Messico) vive e lavora a Mexico City. Si è laureata in Belle Arti al Maryland Institute College Art (MICA). È stata artista in residenza al Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, alla Yale Norfolk School of Art, al Vermont Studio Center Fellowship e a Palazzo Monti. Tra le mostre recenti: *Miami is a Beach*, 1969 Gallery, NY; *A Very Anxious Feeling: Voices of Unrest in the American Experience* (20 Years of the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection); Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA; *Second Smile, The Hole*, NY; *New on the block*, Machete, Mexico City; and *No Place Like*, Field Projects, NY. È stata recentemente nominata per Forbes 30 Under 30 Art & Style.

Bambou Gili (*1996, New York), vive e lavora a NY. Ha conseguito un BA in Psychology & Studio Art alla New York University. Il suo lavoro è stato presentato da Arsenal Contemporary, NY (2020), Monya Rowe Gallery, NY (2020), PUBLIC Gallery, London (2020), Wallplay, NY (2019), The Commons at The Barney Building, NY (2018).

Orari di apertura
martedì - sabato | 11 – 19

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