

Tang Contemporary Art presents:

Breaking Darkness : Alessandro Gianni Solo Exhibition

Artist: Alessandro Gianni

Curator: Giuliana Benassi, Michela Sena

Exhibition Dates: 25 March - 25 April 2023

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok

Opening Reception: Saturday, 25 March at 4:00 PM

Will the image survive the future? Walking through Alessandro Gianni's works conceived for his solo exhibition at Tang Contemporary Art in Bangkok, this question arises like a distant echo, a faint voice that resurfaces as if fixed in time, as if asked by a past that is still alive. Of this still-living past, the first to give trace of it are the subjects Gianni portrays: excerpts of subjects from Renaissance paintings live on and merge into utterly new forms and vivid, contemporary colors. They are recognizable and at the same time unrecognizable, familiar subjects and at the same time undefinable. They stand out against vivid backgrounds or seem to merge into multicolored cascades. They are parts of bygone works that in Gianni's canvases have lost their author, although endlessly quoting him.

In this whirlwind of images, the artist perhaps finds the opening to break into obscurity. However, he does so by making use of a collaboration with an unusual assistant, namely "Vasari," an artificial intelligence designed by the artist himself and which helps produce the compositional part of the image. This AI is created specifically by the artist and is capable of digitally emulating his way of composing images, before they become paintings. In this sense the AI operates as a Renaissance assistant, able to digitally process visual compositions as the artist imagines them.

The AI was named after Giorgio Vasari with intent - the first and greatest biographer of visual artists, who narrated the lives of the most illustrious painters, sculptors and architects from 1200 to 1500 in Florence, encapsulating them all in a time. In Gianni's hands this great time feels as if it has been shaken, its contents blended, pulled out after centuries and tossed, only to be fished out of the great digital magma.

And it is in this momentum toward a hypothetical future of Artificial Intelligence we return to painting, to the necessity of the pictorial gesture.

Gianni's works are therefore the testimony of the image of its becoming in time and space. The pictorial surface carries with it the memory of the original works and their digital passage. The two aspects mix, until they produce a new image, a new scenario where light bursts in revealing vibrant colors.

Taking us back to answering the question posed at the beginning, Gianni seems to narrate a world that has survived a hypothetical apocalypse where images remain, suspended in time, divided or rediscovered with only the memory of themselves.

About the Artist

Alessandro Gianni born in 1989 is an Italian artist based in Rome, Italy. The artist studied from Accademia Belle Arti di Rome, Italy in 2011. In his work he collects aesthetic fragments from the web with the intention of giving them a new existence. In his artworks the analogical practice of painting merges with the use of new media, with the Internet and digital culture, investigating the connections between the digital universe, parallel universes, and the dreamlike introspective world of human beings. In his research there are different types of works, both of a traditional nature (painting, drawing and sculpture), and of a technological nature (AI, VR, video, animation, 3D printing). In 2019 Alessandro created "Vasari", an artificial intelligence which is able to emulate his creative and conceptual process and assist him in composing sketches. In 2020 he was one of the founders of Spaziomensa, an artist-run space created to enhance the Roman artistic ferment.

He has exhibited in several institutions in Italy and abroad including: MAXXI museum (Rome, Italy); the MACRO museum (Rome, Italy); the Swiss Institute of Milan (Italy); Kühlhaus Berlin (Berlin, Germany); the Gardens of the Venice Casino (Venice, Italy); Corcoran Gallery of Art, (Washington DC, USA); The American University Katzen Arts Center (Washington DC, USA); the residence of the Italian ambassador to the USA "Villa Firenze" (Washington DC, USA). The Artist selected exhibition including: Spring Break Art Show, Los Angeles, USA, 2023; Frammenti da lontano, curated by Giuliana Benassi, Galleria Mazzoli, Modena, Italy, 2023; Global Song, Tang Contemporary, Hong Kong, 2022; Post-Me Generation: How to Write About Young Artists, Beijing 2022; Due to the Image, Postmasters Gallery; Questa Razza Di Diavoli Non Conosce Regole!, Maker Faire, European Edition, Rome; L'apocalisse Dell'ora, Albumarte, Rome, Italy, 2019.

Tang Contemporary Art

Since its founding in Bangkok in 1997, Tang Contemporary Art has opened 7 spaces in Beijing, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Seoul to promote the development of experimental art in different regions. In the past 20 years, Tang Contemporary Art has organized groundbreaking exhibitions in its gallery spaces, and also cooperated with important art institutions in China and abroad to accomplish outstanding art projects. The gallery strives to initiate dialogue between artists, curators, collectors and institutions working both locally and internationally. A roster of groundbreaking exhibitions has earned Tang Contemporary Art internationally renowned recognition, establishing its status as a pioneer of the contemporary art scene in Asia.

As one of China's most influential contemporary art platforms, Tang Contemporary Art maintains a high standard of exhibition programming. Tang Contemporary Art represents or collaborates with leading figures in international contemporary art, including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yongping, Shen Yuan, Zhu Jinshi, Chen Danqing, Liu Qinghe, Liu Xiaodong, Chen Shaoxiong, Wang Yuping, Shen Ling, Shen Liang, Wu Yi, Xia Xiaowan, He Duoling, Mao Xuhui, Wang Huangsheng, Yang Jiechang, Tan Ping, Wang Du, Yan Lei, Yue Minjun, Wang Jianwei, Yangjiang Group, Zheng Guogu, Lin Yilin, Sun Yuan&Peng Yu, Qin Ga, Wang Qingsong, Yin Zhaoyang, Feng Yan, Guo Wei, Chen Wenbo, Ling Jian, Qin Qi, Yang Yong, Peng Wei, He An, Zhao Zhao, Xu Qu, Chen Yujun, Chen Yufan, Xue Feng, Cai Lei, Li Qing, Wang Sishun, Xu Xiaoguo, Lí Wei, Liu Yujia, Wu Wei, Yang Bodu, You Yong, Li Erpeng, Jade Ching-yuk Ng, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Adel Abdessemed, Niki de Saint Phalle, AES+F, Michael Zelehosk, Jonas Burgert, Christian Lemmerz, Michael Kvium, Sakarin Krue-On, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Natee Utarit, Kitti Narod, Gongkan, Entang Wiharso, Heri Dono, Nam June Paik, Park Seungmo, Jae Yong Kim, Diren Lee, Dinh Q. Lê, Rodel Tapaya, Jigger Cruz, Ayka Go, Raffy Napay, H.H.Lim, Etsu Egami, etc.

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