

SELF

Massimo De Carlo is pleased to present *Self*: the gallery has invited nineteen artists to submit one or two works that are regarded by the invited artists as self-portraits, either representational or abstract.

The ground floor room focuses around the notion of the double – the works in the room are centered on identity fragmentation- translating in the vocabulary of art memory, consciousness and ego in a single multidimensional self.

The Austrian collective Gelitin, with their four mirror self-portraits, play with the notions of group and individuality whilst artists Yan Pei-Ming and Zhao Gang, both known for their historical portraits, offer a rare inward facing direction of their oeuvre. The physical embodiment of the ego is the theme for both Kaari Upson's 'Kiss Painting' diptychs, where the artist collapses her own identity by merging her own with an unknown man, and of Loie Hollowell's psychedelic corporal portraits that allude to sexual organs.

At the centre of the room is Steven Claydon's intriguing sculpture: an examination of material veracity and mimesis, exploring the assembling and disassembling of character.

The lower ground floor is centered on the material traces of our ego that we leave behind: from the romantic yet menacing stillness of Anicka Yi's bacterial polka dots to Paweł Althamer's sculpture of Billy-The Goat, a relic of travels-past that symbolise the idea of the quest and past expectations, the viewer is instilled with a sense of uneasiness and nostalgia that becomes even more tangible in Dan Colen's immersive installation. Composed of dozens of trompe-l'œil hand-made sculptures of cigarettes and hand-blown wine bottles scattered on the floor together with the extravagant studded painting, the work mimics the remains of a party by transporting us in to the motionlessness of the after math.

On the first floor the abstract representational theme is explored in unlike yet tantalising depths. In the first room the crude dark humour of both Andra Ursuta and Jamian Juliano-Villani - who through their works challenge the seductive quality of consumerism, attraction and the voyeur's gaze - are paired with the dazed vulnerability and glitter of the Panda's depicted in Rob Pruitt's Panda canvases.

In the second room a more sombre tone is set as the self is explored through the connection between the material and the gesture. The medium is key in the work of Rashid Johnson, who reflects on every-day life via the use of soap whilst the energy and blur of the painterly gesture becomes an appendix of the identity of the artist in both the works of Josh Smith and Bertrand Lavier.

Ephemerality is the subject of the works presented by Pietro Roccasalva and Matthew Monahan. Monahan's mask, situated in the entrance of the gallery is a reflection on how the artist is situated in the relationship between modernity and humanity. The marble slab created by Pietro Roccasalva for the studio on the first floor explores and challenges the historical significance of art works.

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ARTISTS

Paweł Althamer was born in 1967 in Warsaw, where he lives and works.

Steven Claydon was born in 1969, he lives and works in London.

Dan Colen was born in 1979 in New Jersey, he lives and works in New York.

Gelitin is composed of four members, Wolfgang Gantner, Ali Janka, Florian Reither and Tobias Urban. They live and work in Vienna.

Loie Hollowell was born 1983 in Woodland, California. She lives and works in New York City.

Rashid Johnson was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1977. He lives and works in New York.

Jamian Juliano-Villani was born in 1987 in New Jersey. She lives and works in New York.

Bertrand Lavier was born in 1949 in Châtillon-sur-Seine, France. He lives and works in Aignay-le-Duc and in Paris.

Tony Lewis was born in 1986 in Chicago, where he lives and works.

Yan Pei-Ming was born in Shanghai in 1960. He lives and works in Dijon (France).

Matthew Monahan was born in 1972 in California. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

Pietro Roccasalva was born in 1970, Modica, Italy. He lives and works in Milan, Italy.

Rob Pruitt was born in 1964 in Washington, D.C. He lives and works in New York.

Josh Smith was born in Okinawa, Japan, in 1976. He lives and works in New York.

Kaari Upson was born in, California, in 1972. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Andra Ursuta was born in Salonta, Romania, in 1979. She lives and works in New York.

Liu Xiadong was born in Lianing Province in 1963. He lives and works in Beijing

Anicka Yi was born 1971 Seoul, South Korea. She lives and works in New York.

Zhao Gang was born in 1961 in Beijing, China. Lives and works in New York.

Hard Facts:

Massimo De Carlo, London

55 South Audley Street

London W1K 2QH

From June 10th, 2016 until July 29th

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am – 6.00pm

Opening: Thursday 9th of June 2016

For further information and materials:

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