

Press Release

MJ Torrecampo – (Un)Freedom

Curated by Stefano Castelli

Opening 19 November 2020, 3 – 8 pm, by appointment only

Book your visit at info@canepaneri.com

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C+N CANEPANERI is glad to present, in its Genoa space, the first solo show of the young artist MJ Torrecampo (Manila, Philippines, 1992, she lives and works in New Hampshire, USA). The exhibition is part of the gallery's trend aimed at the discovery of emerging artists. The show displays a selection of the most recent paintings by the artist, characterized by medium and large format oil paintings, either on canvas or on board. Sometimes, the works are conceived as polyptychs, in some cases in panoramic format.

In the paintings of MJ Torrecampo, intense and enigmatic group scenes show characters busy with their daily-life activities, in a peculiar suspended atmosphere. The highly expressive nature of the scenes is balanced by the feeling of apparent silence and quietness, symbolized by the figures' postures and by a kind of veiling of the vision. The gaze of the characters and the complex paintings' perspectives make the single figures "diverge" from one another, despite the fact that they group together and relate to each other.

Even gestures of affection and closeness remain suspended in a state of uncertainty: they are moving, but, at the same time, they are almost frozen. The array of everyday environments and objects, portrayed with the same dignity that is dedicated to the characters, makes the viewer definitely enter in a poetry of daily life which contains strong allusions to analysis and criticism of contemporary society.

The expressive originality and the inventiveness in the construction of the scenes also depend on the fact that the artist accomplishes her "social exploration" starting from her own experience and observation of real life. The variety of points of view and "framings" composes a jagged fresco of contemporary life, of the individual inside the crowd, and of those mechanisms, spontaneous or influenced, that lead towards the formation of a group.

'My work examines social dynamics and the resonance of the individual within the group', the artist explains. 'It's a contemplation of the mundane and familiar in order to explore the coexistence of isolation and belonging. In my paintings, people are part of one's group, but also feel like strangers. It's a combination of recollected memories and invented events to achieve a composition that can offer multiple entrances to the narrative and sustain different emotional layers. We're capable of feeling alone one second and feeling part of a community the next and it's a thin line that I'm attempting to tiptoe and create within the painting.'

MJ Torrecampo was born in Manila in 1992. Her artistic education took place at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, and at the New York Academy of Art. She currently lives and works in New Hampshire. The artist has taken part in many group shows in the United States.