

Press release

Road To Madrid

Miro King, Theo Mercier, MJ Torrecampo
January 24, 2023 – February 20, 2023

Opening reception

January 24 – 6 pm
Foro Buonaparte, 48
20121 Milano

C+N Gallery CANEPANERI is pleased to announce *Road to Madrid*, a preview exhibition opening in conjunction with the UVNT art fair, Madrid. The show has been conceived as a dialogue between different identity languages of both established artists and new talents belonging to the emerging contemporary artistic landscape.

Miro King (Germany, 1995; Royal College of Art MA Painting, Wimbledon College of Arts BA Fine Art Painting). A fundamental part of King's practice are masks, which he utilises for his mythological as well as social satirical narratives. These masked figures are mostly inspired by various fairy tales, pop-cultural references and emojis. The depicted scenarios in his paintings are highlighting society's issue with consumerism, vanity, escapism and temptation. King works with multiple layers of oil paint, utilising the negative space to reveal the figures and eventually, scratches onto the wet surface. This scratching stage goes hand in hand with his more improvised and playful approach (from LONDON PAINT CLUB).

Theo Mercier (Paris, 1984; Graduated of ENSCI, Paris, France; Matthew Barney studio assistant, New York, USA, Nomination for the Prix Marcel Duchamp, Paris, France 2014) breathes life into a tribe of unordinary sculptures, which defy the dominant binary system of understanding. Somewhere between animal and human, masculine and feminine, primordial and futuristic, the blissful and the damned, the members of this marginal family with its totemic airs are singularly renegotiated in a gender and identity trouble. Behind the religious authority of these pseudo-idols, a grimace, a wink simultaneously suggest the presence of an underlying voodoo potency. Borrowing the tribal esthetic and its "magical powers," Théo Mercier dispassionately reveals the humor and dark beauty that nourish our obsession for individual and collective identity.

MJ Torrecampo (Philippines, 1992, University of Central Florida /Orlando, FL; BA Painting Minor: Art History; New York Academy of Art MA Fine Arts), lives and works in Florida and shares the choice of the (re)construction of reality, with a rational and sociological analysis, As Jacques Derrida stated, "The essence of a culture is not to be identical to itself. Not that it doesn't have identity but that it can't be identified, say "I" or "we", that it can take the form of the subject only in the non-identity to itself or, if you prefer, the difference with itself." The remixing of the perspective is a fundamental feature of Torrecampo's paintings. However, the visual system doesn't collapse; instead, the contradictions between the various vectors of the look create, overall, a composition that is surprising in its solidity. The different points of the scene described converse following a mental rather than perceptive map.