

PRESS RELEASE

The Name of the Rose. Step 2

MJ Torrecampo, Harriet Riddell,
Chigozie Obi, Mie Olise Kjærgaard,
Gonzalo García
Group Show Curated by **Charles Moore**

C+N Gallery CANEPANERI opens a new season with ***The Name of the Rose. Step 2***, a group show by **MJ Torrecampo, Harriet Riddell, Chigozie Obi, Mie Olise Kjærgaard, Gonzalo García**. Following the first step in Genoa with various talented artists, we are excited to continue this journey and showcase new remarkable works. The exhibition, curated by **Charles Moore**, invites audiences on a journey into the multifaceted world of pink and its significance within contemporary art.

"The Name of the Rose. Step 2" takes a closer look at the artistic use of pink and reevaluates it through the lens of renowned 20th-century Italian philosopher Umberto Eco. Eco's approach to beauty as a subjective, dynamic phenomenon serves as the show's guiding principle.

Reimagining beauty as a concept rooted in imperfection and interpretation, Eco paved the way for a new understanding of color's role in artistic expression. The diverse array of mediums and techniques employed by the artists in this exhibition challenge traditional notions of beauty, aesthetics, and color, inviting viewers to engage in a dialogue about the complexities of the broader human experience.

For the artists brought together by this exhibition, pink has a transformative power. From vibrant canvases to ethereal sculptural pieces, the works on display illuminate the myriad ways in which pink can evoke emotions, challenge perceptions, and transcend cultural boundaries.

MJ Torrecampo's paintings deal with social relationships between people and the simultaneous aspects of camaraderie and division within a group; it's a closer look at the relationships we maintain and its complications. The remixing of the perspective is a fundamental feature of Torrecampo's works.

Harriet Riddell is exploring her own visual interpretation of the asset of pink. Through free-motion embroidery in pink palette, Harriet looks at the connections and rhythms celebrating biodiversity of Britain's flora and fauna.

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Opening Reception **September 19th, 6 PM**
C+N Gallery CANEPANERI
Foro Buonaparte, 48 – 20121 Milan

Chigozie Obi uses pink to accent the natural beauty inherent within the body, especially highlighting the nuanced beauty of the black body that is often portrayed in a non-dimensional way.

For **Mie Olise Kjærgaard**, pink becomes a way to continue, expand, and overthrow discourses of femininity that enhance her depiction of feminine subjects reclaiming their voices in often fantastical manners.

Gonzalo García leans into bold colors, neon pinks, so that the day-to-day Mexican life becomes extraordinary visions of family, tradition, and journeys of self-identity.

Through the lens of Eco's semiotic approach, the artists excavate the rich symbolism and cultural connotations of pink. Themes of identity, gender, and societal norms are mutated by each artist, forcing us to reconsider our preconceptions of the color, the world, and ourselves. By harnessing the visual and emotional impact of pink, they invite viewers to confront their own biases, looking at how this color of beauty can allow for deeper explorations of our social constructs, sense of self, and collective human psyche.

"The plethora of approaches mirrors the diversity of pink's ability to reveal the complexity and power of color within art," says curator Charles Moore. "For some, pink is a quintessential symbol of beauty, while for others, it embodies the conceptualization of duality."

From the delicate beauty of the everyday to the surreal landscapes of the mind, "The Name of the Rose. Step 2" offers an opportunity to witness the potential of color and to reframe our perceptions and understanding of the human experience. Through their evocative artworks, Chigozie Obi, Mie Olise Kjærgaard, Harriet Riddell, MJ Torrecampo and Gonzalo García ignite imaginations and celebrate the boundless possibilities of creativity realized through the multitude of portrayals of a singular color.

Gonzalo García (Puebla, Mexico, 1985) studied Visual Arts at the Instituto Allende University, in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato. He has been selected in several biennials throughout his career, such as the last XVII Rufino Tamayo Biennial of 2016-2017 and the José y Tomás Chávez Morado Biennial of 2018, where he obtained an honorable mention, as well as the last VI Pedro Coronel Biennial of Zacateca. At the end of 2022, he had his tenth individual exhibition at Galería Loot, in Mexico City, entitled "Refugios suaves" and had the second-place winner at the VI Biennial of painting J. A. At the beginning of 2024, he presented his work at the Art Fair Zona Maco (Mexico City) next to CAM Galería.

Mie Olise Kjaergaard (Mors, Denmark, 1974) is a Copenhagen-based artist working in painting, sculpture, and installation. Her fantastical imagery rethinks the predominant narratives and constructs of society specifically from a lens of womanhood. Kjaergaard holds an MFA from Central St. Martins in London, as well as a master's in architecture from Aarch, Aarhus (DK) + The Bartlett, UCL, London. She has been travelling to artist residencies such as ISCP New York, Art OMI, and Skowhegan. Kjaergaard has exhibited with the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Art Houston, Museo de Arte Acarigua, Venezuela; Nikolaj Kunsthal (DK), Skive New Museum of Art, (DK), Torrance Art Museum in Los Angeles; Himmerlands Kunstmuseum (DK); The Journal Gallery in New York City, and Hans Alf Gallery in Copenhagen.

Chigozie Obi (Lagos, Nigeria, 1997) is a multi-dimensional visual artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. Through detailed and expressive portraiture and scenes of daily life, she transforms personal and social storytelling into a commentary on the body, beauty standards, and societal divides to upend cultural narratives. Obi obtained a bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from the University of Lagos in 2017. Her work has been featured in exhibitions with institutions including Vallery Gallery in Dubai, Gallery Affinity in Lagos, Thinkspace Projects in Los Angeles. She was selected as Arthouse Contemporary's Artist of the Month in July 2018, a recipient of the inaugural Tilga Fund for Arts Grant, winner of the Access Bank 'Art X Prize, The Future Awards Prize for Art, and was in residence with Gasworks, London.

MJ Torrecampo (Philippines, 1992) is a Florida-based painter. The artist received an MFA from the New York Academy of Art in New York City and a BFA from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida. Shares the choice of the (re)construction of reality, with a rational and sociological analysis. In 2023 Florida Prize in Contemporary Art group exhibition was held at Orlando Museum of Art / Orlando, FL with MJ as a winner. In 2022 and 2023 MJ Torrecampo's works were presented at Untitled Art fair, Miami, USA.

Harriet Riddell (Oxfordshire, UK, 1992) is a performance textile artist and educator from who uses freeform embroidery to create stitched portraits and live scenarios. Her works have been showcased in exhibitions in England, Germany, Kenya, India, Canada, in various institutions. She has participated in international art fairs with C+N Gallery CANEPANERI and SAATCHI Art.

Charles Moore is a New York-based curator, author, and art historian investigating abstraction, color theory, and social justice challenging systemic disparities in the art world. Moore received his Master's degree in Museum Studies from Harvard, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia University's in the Art & Museum Studies program. He is a regular contributing author to notable publications including Juxtapoz, CULTURED, Artsy, Brooklyn Rail, and Fine Art Connoisseur. He is the author of three books about art criticism and collecting: *The Black Market: A Guide to Art Collecting* (2020); *Israel's Transformative Black Artists* (2020); and *The Brilliance of the Color Black Through the Eyes of Art Collectors* (2021). *The Black Market* has been translated into 10 languages.