

Matèria

Runo B

Cliffhanger

06.05.2023 –
15.07.2023

Matèria presents *Cliffhanger*, a solo exhibition of works by Venice based artist Runo B (1992, China), curated by Ornella Paglialonga.

The gallery continues its journey of discovery and promotion of young international talents and its experimentation across different mediums, ranging from sculpture to painting and photography.

In his solo exhibition, Runo B presents a series of large-scale paintings, created between 2021 and 2022, alongside an unseen group of ceramic works produced for the show. Runo B's imagery arises from an in-depth engagement with art history, society, and aesthetics; key elements that converge in a narrative strongly characterized by mass media, a source from which a visual language emerges that the artist transfers to his pictorial vision.

The exhibition takes its title from the *Cliffhanger* series, a triptych depicting a man in the act of scaling a mountain, seemingly clumsy yet determined to surmount the seemingly tough challenge. The characters in Runo B's paintings are part of a body of work developed throughout several years, focused on the figure of *Fool*, the displaced, the common people; always on the edge between marginalization and the bounds of normalcy. Portrayed are characters free of the burden of insanity, yet determined to perform acts of protest - from the smallest to the most extreme - until they are eventually pushed to the margins of society.

Through strong chromatic contrasts, movements, and repetition in the use of themes and images, Runo B's paintings invite us to a world inspired by the mad gestures of today's society and the disjointed facets of the human condition. *Cliffhanger* is not the final challenge but rather an endless climb the characters attempt to undertake as outcasts, toying the fine line needed to adapt to what the world asks of them, with a sense of naïveté that makes them perpetually graceless.

Runo B (Zhang Xiaodong) (1992, China) lives and works in Venice. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice (2017) and his master's degree in Visual Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna (2020). Recent solo exhibitions and projects include "Fly Me Home", in collaboration with Luca Massimo Barbero, QianSheng Chinese Restaurant, Venice (2022); SideShow #2, curated by Ornella Paglialonga, Matèria, Rome (2022); Ass of God, PATA Gallery, Shanghai (2021). Collective exhibitions and residencies include: BY ART MATTERS Residency By Art Matters Museum, Hangzhou (2023); Venice Time Case, Galerie Italienne Gallery, Paris, France (2022); The Loading, The Balcony Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands (2022); The Hearing Trumpet PART II, Marguo Gallery, Paris, France (2022); Venice Time Case, Tommaso Calabro Gallery, Milan, Italy.

Based in the neighbourhood of San Lorenzo in Rome, Matèria opened its doors to the public in 2015. The gallery proposes an exhibition programme that touches upon all aspects of Contemporary Art. Since its founding, Matèria's purpose has been the furthering and development of the work of its selected group of Artists. The gallery programme features four exhibitions per calendar year, conceived and produced directly with its artists and often in dialogue with the space through a site specific approach. Matèria's gallery shows strive to further the research and experimentation aspects of artistic practice, with the results of this approach often showcased in a growing list of Italian and international art fairs.

Matèria represents the work of Fabio Barile, Karen Knorr, Mario Cresci, Xiaoyi Chen, Giuseppe De Mattia, Sunil Gupta, Marta Mancini, Joachim Lenz, Stefano Canto and Eduardo Fonseca e Silva & Francisca Valador.

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Opening
06 May 2023 h 18:00 - 21:00
08 May 2023 - 15 July 2023
Matèria | Via dei Latini, 27 - Rome
materiagallery.com

Matèria

Hours
From Tuesday to Saturday
from 11 am to 7 pm

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