



THE SALON BY NADA & THE COMMUNITY

OCT. 17 - 20, 2024 | BOOTH W4

SIMON BURET
GOMMAAR GILLIAMS
DIMITRIS GKETSIS
MALIK THOMAS



NIL GALLERY | BOOTH 2.09



Nil Gallery is pleased to present a curated group exhibition at The Salon by NADA & The Community, featuring works by Simon Buret, Gommaar Gilliams, Dimitris Gketsis, and Malik Thomas. United by themes of memory, identity, and emotional depth, these artists translate personal narratives into compelling visual forms that invite viewers to explore the complexities of introspection, myth, and abstracted experiences. Their varied approaches and media create a dynamic exploration of how inner worlds and external realities intertwine.

Simon Buret's work embodies the delicate interplay between chaos and harmony. Through a rich combination of textures, forms, and color, his abstract compositions create a visual rhythm amidst apparent disorder. Buret's pieces speak to the tension between fragmentation and cohesion, offering moments of stillness and balance within turbulent, emotionally charged settings. His ability to create unity out of chaos reflects the internal workings of the human mind, where memory, perception, and emotion shift between the abstract and the tangible.

Gommaar Gilliams integrates the tactile nature of fabric and stitching with his abstract expressionist paintings, creating works that are both visually and physically intricate. By combining gestural strokes with the process of stitching on textiles, Gilliams builds layers of texture and color that suggest emotional complexity. The organic shapes and bold colors in his works evoke natural forms and psychological landscapes, blurring the boundaries between craft and fine art. His use of fabric adds depth to the abstraction, inviting the viewer to experience the merging of thought, feeling, and form.

Dimitris Gketsis brings a deep connection to his Greek heritage, crafting immersive visual narratives that blend mythology, identity, and radical imagination. His sculptural and painterly works draw from ancient myths, integrating archetypal symbols and imagery to explore how the past shapes contemporary life. Gketsis' work transcends time, inviting viewers to engage with the timeless stories that have shaped human understanding of identity, power, and transformation. Through his intricate layering of historical and modern aesthetics, Gketsis creates thought-provoking pieces that challenge how we perceive the myths that still inform our present-day realities.

Malik Thomas, a British-Iraqi artist, works in abstract figurative painting and textile printmaking to explore themes of memory, intimacy, and desire. His compositions, often created on hand-dyed silk, cotton, and wool, depict male figures in emotionally charged encounters, merging figuration and abstraction to evoke a sense of longing and reflection. Thomas's gestural approach allows his figures to drift between the real and imagined, capturing fleeting moments of emotional intensity. His work, infused with subtle references to memory and personal history, creates a space where viewers can contemplate the deeper aspects of identity and emotional experience.

Together, these artists form a compelling dialogue around memory, identity, and emotional introspection. Whether through fabric, paint, or sculptural forms, they explore the intersections of myth, desire, and the blurred boundaries between inner and outer worlds.

SIMON BURET



SIMON BURET



Born in Paris in 1981, Simon Buret is a contemporary artist whose career is deeply influenced by his experiences in France, Greece, and North Africa. His diverse and evolving body of work explores a broad range of themes, from vibrant bursts of color that convey powerful emotions to expressions of rare innocence. Combining his talents as a singer and actor, Buret engages in multidisciplinary experimentation to convey his emotions and perspectives through abstract works inspired by nature.

Buret transforms ordinary objects into timeless creations, establishing a visual dialogue between strength and vulnerability. His art, characterized by a delicate balance between mastery and fragility, generates a palpable tension that invites viewers to embrace nuance and uncertainty. Overflowing with color and symbolism, Buret's paintings transcend time and space, immersing observers in a poetic realm.

His work is an enchanting dance between history, mythology, and contemporary life. Through intricate lines and a refined use of color, Buret creates a mystical contemplation that defines his distinctive style. Each piece reveals a tension between control and delicacy, a hallmark of his artistic approach.

"In my work, I try to get as close as possible to my emotions, to stop them in their tracks; to capture and shape them as a material. I believe that each of us carries an invisible world within, and that the artist's job is to explore this invisible world, to bring back some testimonies, and to share them in the light of day. Whatever the medium." - Simon Buret

A graduate of art schools in Paris and Brussels, Buret exhibited at Sotheby's in 2023, highlighting the growing recognition of his work. Currently based in Paris, he continues to enrich the artistic landscape with his unique vision and mastery of abstract art.

GOMMAAR GILLIAMS



GOMMAAR GILLIAMS



Belgian artist Gommaar Gilliams, born in 1982 in Lier, invites viewers into a richly textured world where abstraction meets symbolism in a vibrant dance of color and form. A graduate of LUCA School of Arts in Brussels and PXL College in Hasselt, Gilliams blends the fervor of American Abstract Expressionism with the layered meanings of Middle Eastern and European symbolism, creating works that resonate on both personal and universal levels.

Gilliams' paintings are a journey through emotion and memory, capturing the essence of human longing and nostalgia. His recent exhibitions, such as "Always Been Told" (2020) and "If You Were Dreaming" (2021), continue to explore these themes, with compositions that oscillate between abstraction and representation. The artist's distinctive approach involves a fresco-like layering process: starting with acrylic dyes that saturate fabric, he then adds oil paints and sticks to build a dynamic surface where colors interact and narratives unfold.

With motifs ranging from celestial elements and mythic figures to animals in whimsical motion, Gilliams' work invites viewers into lush, dreamlike spaces. His figures, often gazing at the moon or traversing fantastical landscapes, serve as archetypes reflecting universal stories and timeless human experiences.

Gilliams sees his art as a bridge connecting past, present, and future—a continuum of intertextuality and exploration. His process is not merely technical but deeply philosophical, considering painting as an ongoing, living dialogue between history and innovation. As he puts it, "My work builds upon itself. It's a matter of intertextuality... Painting is a 24/7 thing. It's a way of living."

Gilliams' art is a testament to the power of painting to evoke shared memories and emotions, creating a space where viewers can connect with their own "half-remembered" dreams and stories. His commitment to pushing boundaries and exploring new dimensions in his work ensures that each piece is not only a visual experience but a profound journey through the realms of human consciousness and artistic heritage.

DIMITRIS GKETSIS



DIMITRIS GKETSIS



Dimitris Gketsis (b. 1993, Greece) is a rising voice in contemporary art, whose work bridges the ancient cultural legacies of his homeland with the complexities of modern existence. A graduate of the Athens School of Fine Arts (2016), with studies at Munich's Akademie der Bildenden Künste (2013-2014), Gketsis creates immersive visual narratives that blend mythology, identity, and radical imagination. His Greek heritage deeply informs his artistic practice, imbuing his works with a sense of timelessness and an exploration of how myth and history shape contemporary life.

Gketsis' art has gained international attention through prestigious residencies, including the Art Motile Artist-in-Residence program in Madrid (2016) and the upcoming Telegraph Gallery residency in Czechia (2025). He has exhibited widely, with recent solo and group shows including “The Fault in Our Stars” at The Breeder gallery, Athens (2022), “Odyssey” at the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus (2024), “Felix Art Fair” in Los Angeles (2023), and “Echoing Future: Practices of Radical Imagination” at ACUD gallery, Berlin (2024). His work, which often invokes the tension between personal and collective memory, has been described as a dialogue between the mythical and the everyday, creating a space for audiences to reimagine their own histories.

Gketsis' collaboration with Peruvian artist Sergio Zevallos on “War Machine” for Documenta 14 highlighted his commitment to exploring global socio-political issues through a Greek lens, uniting ancient narratives with urgent contemporary themes. In every piece, Gketsis brings forth a unique blend of Hellenic influences and avant-garde experimentation, crafting a compelling vision of art that is as introspective as it is universal. His practice is a constant interrogation of how the past reverberates within the present, offering a powerful commentary on the interconnectedness of human experience across time and space.

MALIK THOMAS



MALIK THOMAS



Malik Thomas (B. Kent, UK, 1995) is a British visual artist of Iraqi descent, currently based in Amman, Jordan, and London. As both a painter and textile printmaker, his work bridges fine art and textile design, drawing from his multicultural background and experiences in the Arab world.

Thomas' art focuses on male figures, often portraying moist-eyed, intimate encounters that elicit strong emotional responses. His work continues the tradition of painting as a form of veneration, blending personal memory, fantasy, and emotional depth to foster a deep connection with the viewer.

Blurring the boundaries between the literal and abstract, Malik Thomas' gestural representations draw on motifs inspired by calligraphy and woven textiles. His compositions, often painted on hand-dyed silk, cotton, and wool, are rich in texture and visual appeal. Through these materials, he explores the delicate nature of memory and desire, employing traditional symbols to comment allegorically on the introspective nature of human experience.

Malik's work invites empathy and reflection, offering a narrative that balances the personal and universal. His distinctive approach not only engages with the intricacies of memory and identity but also fosters a sense of emotional resonance and contemplation through the language of painting.

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