A PICK GALLERY

PORTRAITS

James Scott Brooks, Marco De Rosa, Leila Erdman-Tabukashvili, Maria Elisa Ferraris, Silvia Margaria, Paola Mongelli, Manfred Peckl, Marco Tagliafico

Opening on Tuesady, April 30th 2024, 6 pm
01.05.24 – 01.06.24

A PICK GALLERY presents the group show *Portraits*, curated by Emanuela Romano, featuring works by James Scott Brooks, Marco De Rosa, Leila Erdman-Tabukashvili, Maria Elisa Ferraris, Silvia Margaria, Paola Mongelli, Manfred Peckl, Marco Tagliafico, on Tuesday, April 30th at 6 pm, in Via Galliari 15/C, Turin.

Portraits exhibition offers a fascinating and complex point of view on the concept of the photographic portrait in contemporary art. Through different works, artists present unique and diverse interpretations of the classic portrait form, pushing the limits of photography and the representation of human identity.

Throughout history, portraits have always played a fundamental role in art, both as an expression of the individual and as a tool of power and authority. From the classical works of the Renaissance masters to the revolution of modern art, the portrait was very transformed, reflecting the social, cultural and technological changes of the ages.
In *Portraits*, artists reinterpret this genre with a variety of innovative approaches. Some of them stick to traditional canons, capturing the essence of faces using classical techniques of composition and lighting. Others, however, challenge conventions, using photography to explore concepts of identity, memory and perception.
Through digital manipulation, the use of symbolic objects or the physical absence of the subject, the works in the exhibition offer a profound reflection on the real nature of the portrait and the complexity of the human being. Images can be suggestive, enigmatic or provocative, inviting the observer to question about his own perception of identity and visual representation.

So *Portraits* represents an opportunity to explore the richness and diversity of contemporary photographic portraits, offering a fascinating insight into human creativity and the many possibilities offered by photography as a technique of expression.

James Scott Brooks' (Exeter, UK, 1974) work starts with a search for portraits of the artist's namesakes. The series, *Eleven time James Brooks*, originates from the photographs of eleven people and takes shape by transferring the photographic snapshot onto graph paper

by removing part of it. From the holes, portraits of 'other James Brooks' appear, revealing how much the use of the internet has changed our perception of identity and individuality.
Marco De Rosa (Rome, 1991) proposes the video installation *Capocantiere* where he defines a portrait through elements and situations of everyday life. The artist shows figures that fascinate him, who become the imaginary presence of a common, everyday element, representing fragments of different worlds that bring back to us memories of common life.
The works of **Leila Erdman-Tabukashvili** (Siberia, 1995) reveal the political climate of recent years, with an unreleased point of view on the Russian-Ukrainian war that highlights the dramatic suffering endured by those experiencing the conflict first-hand. Her research unfolds between photos and videos. The artist visits and photographs military and police academies, schools for internees in Siberia, and she takes a series of portraits of characters capable of making us feel the difficulties of everyday life and exploring the transformations of the human soul.
Maria Elisa Ferraris (Turin, 1995) with the series *Make it home* presents the narration of a journey to Cyprus – actually the European country with the highest percentage of asylum seekers compared to the local population, where recent and past history mingle indistinctly - where the artist has investigated the contradictions of a dreamed territory like Europe, through a return to the individual, to small stories and silent spaces.
Silvia Margaria (Savigliano, CN, 1985) uses photography, words and gestures to enhance the stories and trace the profiles of some Ligurian women of the Resistance: Clelia Corradini, Ines Negri, Franca Lanzone, Paola Garelli, Luigia Comotto and the congregation of the 'Maria bambina' nuns of Pietra Ligure. Courageous women who became flags of humanity thanks to this work.
Paola Mongelli (Turin, 1972) starts from a research on emptiness and absence. The works in the exhibition underline the dialogue between light and darkness, called upon to restore the intensity of visual and emotional experience with images. A tale through images that reveal the relationship between man and nature in a dimension in which the self-exploration and the observation of the world end up overlapping.
The work of **Manfred Peckl** (Wels - Austria, 1968) mainly consists of advertising posters as visual rejects of the consumer society. He separates colours, letters and figures, he cuts and chops everything into very thin strips that are patiently juxtaposed to create new worlds. In these poetic scenarios of urgency, faces and figures emerge, assaulting the eye and sending out topical messages.
Marco Tagliafico (Alessandria, 1985) for this exhibition elaborates a new series of works around the theme of the portrait, starting with a work from 2019. He places the human figure at the centre of his landscapes in a continuous oscillation between visual perception and reality, with a pictorial obscuration typical of his stylistic signature.

During the fifth edition of **The Phair** and as part of *Extended Programme* of **Exposed**, first edition of Photo Festival in Turin – **TAG – Torino Art Galleries** proposes two events:
May 3rd-4th-5th, 10-12 am, ***TAG Art Coffee Breakfast***
May 4th, 7-11 pm, ***TAG Art Night***

The exhibition will be open until June 1st, 2024.