

PLS ASAP

Miami Basel Group Exhibition Curated by Fabien Castanier

VHILS, MICHAEL SWANEY, CES MCCULLY, ANTHONY COLEMAN, AUSTYN TAYLOR, RERO, HERMES BERRIO, SPEEDY GRAPHITO, JONONE, ED BRONER, ADD FUEL, MIAZ BROTHERS, MATIJA BOBICIC, TILT & JAN KALAB

Progressive Art Brunch | Sunday, December 1st @ 11am-4pm
Opening Reception | Friday, December 6th @ 6-10pm

Fabien Castanier Gallery presents, "PLS ASAP", a group exhibition featuring work from the gallery's stable of internationally renowned contemporary artists. The exhibition will be on view during this year's Miami Basel art week, beginning with the Progressive Art Brunch on Sunday December 1st and the subsequent Opening Reception on Friday, December 6th.

The work exhibited will bring the viewer on a journey through a global sphere of unbridled creativity and imagination. From vibrant abstract paintings to whimsical and thought-provoking sculptural pieces, "PLS ASAP" contains a wide breadth of perspectives, all concentrated within the thriving Miami art scene. The exhibition follows the gallery's cadre of artists as they explore themes of identity, technology, and the exquisite and mundane with a meditative intensity brought upon by society's ever-changing landscape. Join the gallery to witness the artists' stories, brought to life through evocative and impactful visual expression.

The **Miaz Brothers** (b. 1965/1968, Italy) present a radical new take on portraiture. The Italian sibling duo create large-format canvases using aerosol paint, rendering ethereal portraits that explore the space between one's perception of the self and that which is intangible. They incorporate a diverse and refreshing range of subjects, including portraits of their friends, their dear departed, philosophers, and figures from the era of the English Restoration.

Jan Kaláb (b. 1978, Czechoslovakia) presents vibrant and dynamic compositions that meld the versatility of his canvas medium with the layered depth of sculpture. Playing with variations in geometry, Kaláb paints on unique canvases of various shapes and combinations. The evolution of his style led to a distillation of abstract ephemeral color and immersive pieces using gradient and light.

Alexandre Farto has been interacting visually with the urban environment under the name of **Vhils** (b. 1987, Portugal) since his days as a prolific graffiti writer in the early-to-mid 2000s. His groundbreaking bas-relief carving technique has been hailed as one of the most compelling approaches to art created in the streets in the last decade. This striking form of visual poetry, showcased around the world in both indoor and outdoor settings, has been described as brutal and complex, yet imbued with a simplicity that speaks to the core of human emotions.

Recognized internationally as a traditional graffiti artist, **Tilt** (b. 1973, France) began his practice as a youth on the streets and train cars of Toulouse. His work draws a bridge with the past, incorporating deconstruction, erasure, and raw materials, all with an anti-aesthetic foundation. He continually references the lineage of graffiti art, attempting to evoke memories of this subculture's rebellious and anarchic past. The work emphasizes the genre's transience while simultaneously calling upon the layered and complex traditions solidified through years of artists' practice in both the gallery and the urban sphere.

The work of **RERO** (b. 1983, France), while instantly recognizable from his distinctive visual style, contains within it an inherent fluidity as he explores myriad social concepts, from technology and consumerism to language and obsolescence. He continually stretches the boundaries of his artistic mediums, often choosing to forego traditional surfaces on which to plant his minimalist statements. RERO's text, always in the same Verdana font and stripped of any flourish beyond a bold strike-through line, become embedded within the medium, acting as a literal and material addition while simultaneously a marker for deconstruction.

Speedy Graphito (b. 1961, France), recognized internationally as one of the pioneers of the French Street Art movement, presents an artistic universe built on an honest dialogue concerning the role of the image within modern society. Since the inception of his career in the 1980s, his work has dealt with concepts of commercialism, iconography, and pop culture. A student of the renowned School of Art Estienne, he has since cemented his place as one of the most influential figures who emerged from the Parisian urban art scene.

JonOne (b. 1963, U.S.) is one of the most influential urban artists of his generation. He grew up in Harlem, New York, where he discovered the thrill and personal expression found through painting in the streets and on train cars. A critical moment in the history of graffiti occurred during this time in the 1980s, and JonOne chose to transport his New York graffiti roots to the streets of Paris when he was only 20 years old. Establishing his life in France, he has since grown his career and reputation for the past 40 years with a unique style, unparalleled in his genre.

As an exploration of different aesthetic possibilities and the juxtaposition of heritage and modernity, **ADD FUEL's** (b. 1980, Portugal) work reinterprets the language of traditional tile design, specifically that of the Portuguese tin-glazed ceramic "azulejo". Historically used as large-scale decoration upon buildings, the Portuguese tile work inhabited a cultural space that contained biblical and mythological references and blended seamlessly with their architecture. Utilizing the complexities and depth offered by this style, ADD FUEL creates multi-layered patterned compositions that produce a poetic rhythm, playing with perception and illusion.

Michael Swaney (b. 1978, Canada) is a prolific artist living and working in Barcelona, Spain. For nearly twenty years Swaney has been crafting exuberant paintings, works on paper, ceramics and installations with childlike intensity. Swaney's formalist style hangs in the balance between baroque and manic, and when paired with his technicolor palette and repeated motifs, the culminating visual universe is expansive and rich.

Slovenia-born artist, **Matija Bobičić** (b. 1987, Slovenia), presents paintings with unrestrained and untamed imaginative forethought. Employing mutated reflections of sci-fi and fantasy paradigms from his youth, Bobičić grapples with the filtering of American culture into post-Yugoslav Slovenia in the 1990s. Rooted within both nostalgia and an uneasy prophecy of our future, Bobičić's work plays with the barely recognizable faces and symbols of decades past to create figures that personify the chaotic amalgamation of pop culture in our modern times.

Ces McCully (b. 1982, Australia) has explored themes of identity and the evolution of contemporary social paradigms as a result of technology and social media. Continuing to discuss questions of identity, she utilizes influences from textile work and religious iconography to create pieces that feel personal and at times nostalgic. She often centers her work around the theme of femininity. Her work both reveals and examines areas of society where women have historically sought solace or ways to exercise their voice or power.

Anthony Coleman (b. 1969, U.S.) is a self-taught artist, born and raised in Philadelphia. Influenced greatly by the seminal cartoons and pop art from the 1970s and '80s, Coleman continues to re-ignite a vibrant perspective on modern folk. By abstracting and re-imagining these recognizable figures from cinema, comics, and music, he presents a playful vision of iconic characters. Using colored pencil and graphite, the stylistic flattening and metamorphosis of the subjects create eccentric and sometimes humorous portraits. Exaggerated features and an energetic treatment of line and color bring Coleman's work into the space between idolatry and nostalgia.

Hermes Berrio (b. 1980, Colombia) captures the significance from his everyday life, relating it with a grand scope that emphasizes both the mundane and the extraordinary. With reality as the foundation to his practice, Berrio creates a vibrant narrative and a personal reflection on the world. Finding inspiration in these unusual and yet commonplace experiences, the artist explores the complexity of such simple moments and renders them on a monumental scale. He has re-imagined, re-arranged, and metamorphosed visions of a cultural and personal landscape, seeking new ways to interpret one's truth visually.

Austyn Taylor (b. 1984, U.S.) presents sculptures that illustrate an absurdist humor, ones that challenge the balance between "realism" and "optimism". Her handmade sculptures incorporate forms drawn from animation, modern art, and ancient sculpture, creating figures that encourage a personal and playful relationship with the viewer. The anthropomorphic animals, characters who Taylor says have been with her throughout her life, stand with unequivocal confidence. Wholesome and optimistic, for the most part, the figures appear as treasured friends or imaginary icons of a fresh and alternate world. Their dynamic emotions project a certain carnal freedom, fixated in the present moment, providing a welcome respite from our human perception of time.

Ed Broner (b. 1988, France) began to paint in Paris in the late 1980s as a graffiti artist. Both a photographer and painter, Broner's work is his personal diary – an authentic examination of the ideas and symbols in modern urban subcultures. His style combines influences from graffiti and contemporary painting, as well as from Aboriginal and African art. By reflecting and often subversively ironizing particular aesthetics, Broner deconstructs his thematic elements with an organic and raw objectivity.

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A catalog of work is available. Please contact the gallery for any press inquiries.

Socials :  @castaniergallery  /Fabien Castanier Gallery  @FCGallery