

George Rouy  
*Maelstrom*  
January 17 – February 14, 2020  
Opening Friday, January 17, 6–8PM

Peres Projects is pleased to present *Maelstrom*, a solo exhibition by London based painter George Rouy. Rouy's approach to the body and his overall pursuit of painting is one of contradiction, harmony, and perpetual transformation, criss-crossing gender, form, and disposition. His work is a fever dream of amorphous and fluid embodiments depicting rhapsodic portraits of 21st century desire that is continuously refilled with physical dissonance, mystery and secrecy, ecstasy and turmoil.

Each work is liberated from established ways of being and becoming which examine the essence and meaning of encounters, drawing equally from the here-and-now, the internet and the machine, as well as more primordial expression and classical demands of color and form. The human figure has always preoccupied artists; its story dominates the history of art. In its imagination and in its image-making, we find clues as to how artists have engaged with the political and socio-cultural conditions and sentiments of their moment. Now we are in a time of renewed and committed interests in figurative painting, Rouy uses the figure as a multi-sided prism to examine and interrogate the contemporary crucibles of gender, fiction and technology.

The works that make up George Rouy's *Maelstrom* behave visually as the word does verbally and in meaning; with dynamism, force, and unease - resonating as the world does now. They present us with images that could not exist in another time, place or context than our own, yet these paintings know the perils of the narrative world. And so Rouy's work at the eye of the storm continues: delimiting canvas, disturbing substance, disquieting ideas.

George Rouy (b.1994 in Kent, UK) is best known for his contorting figures that subvert the canvas boundary. Often depicting nudes, his sensual paintings have a hazy, dream-like quality thanks to the soft, airbrush-like application of layers of paint and the prevalence of fleshy pink coloring. Without context or characterisation, these figures seem to float in endless voids of nothingness, but their movements are actually inspired by the shapes thrown by clubbers. Rouy cites medieval artists such as Jean Fouquet or Rogier van der Weyden as inspirations, as well as great modernists including Picasso, Matisse, and perhaps even Chagall. Rouy received his BFA from Camberwell College of Arts in London in 2015.

Peres Projects is open Monday through Friday, 11 am – 6pm. For further information and sales inquiries, please contact Javier Peres (jp@peresprojects.com), Nick Koenigsknecht (nick@peresprojects.com) or call at +49 (0) 30 275 950770. For press and media inquiries, please contact media@peresprojects.com or +49 (0) 30 275 950770.