

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Ugo Rondinone  
*nuns + monks at the sea*  
January 28, 2023 – March 4, 2023  
Opening Reception: January 28, 6pm - 8pm  
Brussels

Gladstone is pleased to *present nuns and monks at the sea*, an exhibition of new works by Ugo Rondinone. The show brings together a selection of painted sculptures from his ongoing body of work, *nuns + monks*, and paintings from his *Mattituck* series, depicting sunsets at the artist's home on Long Island, New York. This marks the first time either series has been presented in Belgium. As is the case with all earlier presentations, this group of paintings and sculptures were made specifically for this context, offering the viewer a serene, soulful, and contemplative environment in which to experience these quiet, powerful works.

Imbued with the weightiness and intrigue of holy people, Rondinone's nuns + monks have an undeniable presence, both as individuals and in carefully constructed groupings. These humanoid characters are composed of two elements painted with different colors: a large monolithic stone topped by a smaller one to create a bodily form. Placed on concrete pedestals, each sculpture has its own personality, with varying folds, dents, and craggs that create wonderfully complex shadows and textures along their smoothed out, vibrant finishes. Earlier works from this series consisted of larger-than-life figures that stood massively tall and made of bronze. Here, however, Rondinone has turned his attention to smaller sculptural forms, which appear as votive objects created for solitary connection and prayer. These nuns and monks are the original sculptures the artist carved from limestone and used as the basis for larger bronze iterations, and demonstrate the care and precision in Rondinone's hand with these precious and intimately-sized works. Walking through the installation in this domestic space turned gallery, the viewer is able to approach each sacred personage and form a significant, singular bond with each figure encountered.

In the *Mattituck* paintings, named for the coastal spit of the North Fork of Long Island where he has a home and studio, Rondinone engages the Romantic sublime to capture the awe-inspiring celestial and oceanic in simplified yet evocative forms, allowing rich colors to permeate each scene with effective power. From this easterly orientation, the course of the sun and moon is particularly dramatic, as their courses curve above the horizon line. Similar to the artist's 'cloud' and 'sun' paintings, each artwork title records the day and year of its completion and provides a diaristic memorial for each moment captured. Each work is composed using three differing, oftentimes complementary colors, and celebrates the singular magic of each moment encountered by the artist.

Ugo Rondinone was born in 1964 in Brunnen, Switzerland. He studied at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna before moving to New York in 1997, where he lives and works to this day. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006) Art Institute of Chicago (2013); Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai (2014) Palais de Tokyo, 2015, Secession, Vienna 2015, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam 2016, MACRO, Rome 2016, Carre D'Art, Nimes 2016, Berkley Art Museum, Berkeley, Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati, Cincinnati 2017, Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021) Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (2022) and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022), Petit Palais, Paris and Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice. In 2007 he represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Forthcoming exhibitions include: The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland, Storm King, New York, The Städel Museum, Frankfurt and The Phillips Collection, Washington.

For further information, please contact [press@gladstonegallery.com](mailto:press@gladstonegallery.com)  
New York gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm  
Brussels gallery hours: Thursday-Friday, 10am-6pm and Saturday, 12pm-6pm