

# Mark Yang

## The Abyss

14.03.2023  
25.03.2023

**MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique is pleased to present “The Abyss” by Mark Yang.**

Yang’s practice is an ongoing exploration of the human figure, combining the tropes of art history with his own personal experiences.

For his debut exhibition with the gallery, Yang presents three canvases. “The fall of the damned” are large-scale, high contrast vertical compositions, animated by clusters of meandering limbs. As if compressed within the boundaries of the canvas, hands, feet, arms and torsos appear woven together and frozen in time in their downward spiral. This is the first time that Yang paints men and women’s bodies together in the same canvas.

As much as this new body of work hinges on a certain sense of despair – inspired by the artist’s vivid memories of religious iconography in European altarpieces, the painting’s soft lines invite the eye to wander across its flowing, faceless figures. Indeed, Yang takes chiaroscuro to new limits, illuminating these plummeting limbs in stark whites that contrast with the depths of the shadows below. And yet as the eye travels from hands to knees to upside-down toes, the composition acquires an abstract, ballet-like dimension.

Over the course of the exhibition, each work will be presented consecutively, first individually, then two by two and finally, all three together, evoking the three-piece structure of the baroque altarpieces that inspired this series.

**Mark Yang**

The Fall of the Damned, 2023 Olio su tela  
182.9 × 76.2 cm / 72 × 30 inches

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The Fall of the Damned, 2023 Olio su tela  
182.9 × 147.3 cm / 72 × 58 inches

**Mark Yang** (b.1994, Seoul, South Korea) is based in New York where he lives and works.

Korean-American artist Mark Yang employs portrayals of male intimacy in his paintings of intertwined nudes to analyze his identity as an immigrant and contrast masculinity ideals in the United States and Korea. Yang's larger-than-life naked figures, usually Asian men, grapple and embrace openly. Yang contextualizes his work within an art historical lineage that dates back to ancient Greece by focusing on masculine nudity. He highlights the formal features of his intricate compositions by outlining the shapes of his intertwined figures with solid lines of contrasting color.

Selected solo and two person exhibitions include: MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, France (2023); Lucid Dream, Various Small Fires, No.9 Cork Street, London, UK (2022); Gymnós, Half Gallery, New York, NY (2022); Mark Yang & Jungyoon Hyen: Inanimatefy, Various Small Fires, Seoul, KR (2022); Various Small Fires, Los Angeles, CA (2021); Body Double, Steve Turner, Los Angeles, CA (2021). Selected group exhibitions include: The Bioelectric Self, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA (2023); Somatic Markings, Kasmin, New York, NY (2022); Finger Bang, Perrotin, Paris, FR (2022); Harmonious Arrangement, Half Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2022); Apostolic Succession, Spurs Gallery, Beijing, CN (2021); MFA '20 Thesis Exhibition, Wallach Art Gallery, New York, NY (2021); Body Language, Saga, Seoul, KR (2021); Alone Together, Steve Turner, Los Angeles, CA (2020); 2020, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York, NY (2020); Dear America, CP Projects Space, New York, NY (2019); Whams of Summer, Ki Smith Gallery, New York, NY (2019); Aesthetically Functional Only, 1675 Broadway, New York, NY (2019); Visual Arts First Year Exhibition, Wallach Art Gallery, New York, NY (2019).

Selected public collections: X Museum, Beijing, CN; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL; The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; Rubell Museum, Miami, FL & DC.