

Jana Schröder

D. A. M.

May 3rd – June 22nd 2024

Alfonso Artiaco is pleased to announce the first solo show at the gallery of the German artist Jana Schröder (Brilon, 1983) titled *D. A. M.*
Opening on May 2nd at 7 pm, in the presence of the artist.

The exhibition grew out of the artist's interest in the legacy that Diego Armando Maradona left to the city of Naples. During a previous stay of hers, Jana Schröder was amazed at how gadgets, T-shirts, flags and scale reproductions of Maradona in the colors of the Neapolitan team invaded every street. The blue and white colors create a recurring landscape with cheerful and fun, almost familiar tones. Therefore, although the artist has no particular football interests, he decided to undertake a production whose colors recalled the connection with Maradona's Napoli.

"El Pibe de Oro" represents for Neapolitans the revenge of an area that until the 1980s had always remained on the margins. The popular identification in that young Argentine boy, raised in the most deprived suburbs of Buenos Aires, who led the team and the city to indelible victories ensured that the memory did not fade over time and that his figure became a myth.

Thus the large abstract white and blue paintings in the gallery rooms symbolize Maradona challenging the colors of other teams. Ideal teams that are pitted against each other in the gallery rooms with canvases of different colors ranging from acerbic green tones to orange to bright pink. The arrangement of the works does not follow the typical pattern; rather, the works stand in the space like soccer players on the field. In addition to the eleven canvases, there are eleven works on paper in the main room that reproduce an ideal formation made up of goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and forwards, lined up as in a soccer scheme.

Each work follows declinations of shades of the same color combined with white. What varies is the texture of the gesture and its impression on the canvas. The artist also plays with lines and shapes, seemingly random, which instead subtend a pattern consisting of lines of different thickness, now sinuous now geometric that chase each other across the canvas. In pursuit of the rapid drying times of acrylic, the multidirectional movements of the fast brushstrokes become symbols of the purest pictorial gesture. Like a dense net that, however, does not trap the viewer, but acts as a bank accompanying his gaze.

Jana Schröder was born in 1983 in Brilon, DE.
She lives and works in Düsseldorf, DE.

Schröder's artistic practice is based on the action of painting itself. The formalist education in the class of Albert Oehlen at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf deeply influenced her in producing paintings characterized by sinuous brushstrokes that guide the viewer in the discovery of a complex composition through many layers of color. Schröder's practice is a meditation on process and repetition, slowness and speed, the process becomes part of the work. Lines, grids or rhythmised webs suggest the elusive movement of her hand. Her research reveals that every painting, every paperwork strikes out with its own experience and composes itself as an individual sign. Schröder operates with the aesthetic matter of everyday scribbling holding something the application of colour longs for: spontaneous, casual, and self-evident originality. The deliberation of such moments is a relief of gestures which in its nebulous density of information prevents any reconstruction of the painterly act, is contrasted by parts of more frenzied, quickly-applied paint which register the trace of the artist's decisive hand at work.