

CARDI GALLERY



Davide Balliano UNTITLED_0312, 2024 Plaster, acrylic and varnish on linen 61 x 91.4 cm 24 x 36 in

DAVIDE BALLIANO

October 8 - December 14, 2024
22 Grafton Street, London W1S 4EX

Cardi Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Turin-born, New York-based artist Davide Balliano, marking his second solo exhibition with the gallery and his first major presentation in London. On view will be a selection of recent works on linen, ranging from large-scale to more intimate size, displaying Balliano's unique brand of geometric abstraction developed over the last several years. Evolving from the artist's signature two-tone palette, this exhibition also marks the reintroduction of color in his paintings after more than a decade.

Operating in a liminal dimension between painting and sculpture, Balliano's richly textured canvases are grounded in material exploration. In his latest series, the artist applies layers of gesso and plaster, chalky mediums usually associated with architecture and sculpture, and subsequently strips them from the surface, revealing unforeseen details through a gradual process of excavation. This subtractive action invites elements of chance into Balliano's otherwise highly controlled practice, enacting a tension between the formal order of the composition and unpredictable effects of time and erosion. Balliano's distinctive minimalist language is the result of a complex visual research, where the geometric, almost digital precision of his compositions belies an artisanal execution and technique. Undulating arches and sinuous curves, flowing and morphing into one another in perpetual motion, appear initially as autonomous, abstract renditions of metaphysical forces. Upon closer look, however, each surface shows various scratches, paint drippings and other minute imperfections that reveal tangible, unique traces of the artist's hand. At once mysterious and universal, Balliano's vocabulary of iterative forms alludes to a remote symbolic dimension, animated by fundamental laws of time and energy. At the same time, these visual tropes are informed by classical geometry and proportions, suggesting fragments of architectural elements and ancient monuments while evoking the idea of ruins that stands at the core of Balliano's practice.

A sense of fracturing of order, or "glitches" in the system, permeates the most recent works, their rhythmic balance being constantly challenged as if by an escalating internal crisis. As the temperature rises, the hypnotic undulations of Balliano's works keep rearranging themselves in new conjugations, reminding us that waves are the only fundamental entity of life and that "the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion".

BIO

Davide Balliano (Turin, IT 1983) is an artist whose research operates on the thin line of demarcation between painting and sculpture. Utilizing an austere, minimal language of abstract geometries in strong dialogue with architecture, his work investigates existential themes such as the identity of man in the age of technology and his relationship with the sublime. Through a practice that is self-described as monastic, austere and concrete, Balliano's meticulous paintings appear, upon first glance, clean and precise. However, closer inspection reveals scrapes and scratches that uncover the organic surface underneath the layers of paint, as a decaying façade of abandoned modernistic intentions. Often denying a single conceptual approach or definable meaning in his work, Balliano resists metaphorical narratives, insisting that every reading remains a free association sourcing from an arrangement of formal elements and materials. Yet, his research is grounded in the consideration of the human experience, a practice that lives in and is informed by its time. In addition to painting, Balliano is also known for his sculptural work, which translates the visual vocabulary found in his paintings into solid objects, often in marble, stainless steel, or ceramic. Originally trained in photography, Balliano shifted to painting and sculpture in 2006 while relocating to New York City, where he currently resides and works.

Recent solo exhibitions include Tina Kim Gallery, New York (2023, 2021, 2019, 2017), Cardi Gallery, Milan (2022), Museo Novecento, Florence (2019), Dirimart Gallery, Istanbul (2019), Bottega Veneta Maison, New York (2018), Marca Museum, Catanzaro (2018), 39 Great Jones, New York (2018), Luce Gallery, Torino (2017 / 2015), Timothy Taylor Gallery, London (2015), Room East, New York (2014), Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Berlin (2013), Michel Rein Gallery, Paris (both 2013) and Location One, New York (2011). His work has been included in group exhibitions at Assembly, Monticello NY (2024), The Margulies Collection, Miami (2022), Magazzino Italian Art, Cold Spring NY (2020), Tina Kim Gallery, New York (2019), David Zwirner Gallery, New York (2015), Sean Kelly Gallery, New York (2014, 2010), Madre Museum, Naples (2012), the Quadrilateral Biennial in Rijeka, Croatia (2011), The Watermill Centre, New York (2011, 2009), MoMA PS1, New York and the Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Castellón (all 2010).

#DavideBalliano

PRESS

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