

**GBE  
SANT'ANDREA DE SCAPHIS  
VASCELLARI, 69  
00153 ROME, ITALY**

**VITTORIO BRODMANN  
CALAMITY**

**FEBRUARY 8 – MARCH 16, 2019**

Through a nonsensical use of humor and cartoonish imagery, Vittorio Brodmann relays the erratic pace with which we consume media today. For *Calamity*, on view at GBE Rome from February 8<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>, Brodmann has made six paintings structured around a single character. These compositions, all in uniform size, line the gallery's church walls, reminding us of religious odes to saints or stained-glass motifs meant to tell a moralistic narrative.

Brodmann's contorted figures evoke elements of classic caricature mixed with abstract expressionism. Each mark on the canvas holds equal weight, intertwining the figures and their surrounding abstracted spaces with a whirlwind of energetic, painterly spontaneity. In their own strange and peculiar worlds, these characters seem to be preoccupied, working to create something larger than themselves. This meditation on creative labor is echoed in a video installed on the altar space of the gallery's floor. The video was made in reaction to an infestation that the artist experienced in his studio several years ago and documents a white architectural structure that upon further viewing is revealed to be a trap for the ants that are building, running and climbing through it. Like the individual figures in the paintings, these indistinguishable creatures are working relentlessly to build something beyond our initial understanding - despite any perils that may stand in the way.

Vittorio Brodmann was born in 1987 in Basel, Switzerland. Recent exhibitions include those at Kunthaus Baselland, Muttenz; Kunsthalle Bern, Bern; Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg; Truth & Consequences, Geneva; Freedman Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich; the Swiss Institute, New York; Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; Galerie Gregor Staiger, Zurich; Stuart Shave / Modern Art, London; Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; SPACE, London and the Belvedere Museum, Vienna. This is Brodmann's second solo exhibition at Gavin Brown's enterprise. He lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

