

Margherita Manzelli

Bluebird

January 24—February 23, 2019

536 West 22nd Street, New York

@lehmannmaupin | #margheritamanzelli

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 24, 6-8 PM



Margherita Manzelli, *26.05.2014 Ravenna*, 2014, graphite, liquid watercolor, glitter, and glue on paper, 30.39 x 22.05 inches. 77.2 x 56 cm. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hona Kona, and Seoul.

New York, December 14, 2018 — Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present an exhibition of recent paintings and drawings by Margherita Manzelli. The Milan-based artist is known for her portraits of fictional women, which emote a deep psychological tension. The artist has played an integral role in the reinvigoration of figurative painting, though she exhibits infrequently and does not produce her time-consuming paintings in great volume. *Bluebird* will be her first exhibition at the gallery, with an opening reception held on Thursday, January 24, from 6 to 8 PM at 536 West 22nd Street.

The women Manzelli paints are not self-portraits, but do serve as a reflection of the artist. The subjects' emotional depth and individuality distinguish each figure, even as they simultaneously seem to fulfill purely archetypal roles linked to tropes of idealized femininity— isolation, self-possession, and melancholy. While this is perceived instinctively in the characters' expressions and physical solitude, they feel equally defiant of such categorization. Each subject is borne of Manzelli's imagination, their backgrounds contrived as small habitats that may spark recognition for the viewer, despite

their nonexistence beyond the painting.

The expert and confident draftsmanship exhibited in Manzelli's drawings is doubly offset by the fragility of these compositions. Their sparse execution, with the figures themselves only partially articulated, only emphasizes the potency of each figure. Colors, patterns, and textures are judiciously applied, though these elements feel secondary to the mood that radiates from each subject. There is a sense of display or performance in the meticulous rendering of clothing, posture, and expression in Manzelli's paintings. The people Manzelli paints are aware that they are

being watched, and their self-presentation feels as intentional as the artist's own conceptualization of them.

Manzelli's work eludes classification beyond its more obvious figurative representation of women. Her characters are both idealized, as skinny, ingénue, and unthreatening but also pushed to the point of the preposterous. They are not aspirational creatures, but rather cautionary, and empathetic as well. The care put into the paintings is palpable, with Manzelli rendering each skillfully in oil paint, one painstaking layer at a time. The effect is otherworldly, though these women, the viewer is reminded, could be human as well.

About the artist

Margherita Manzelli (b. 1968, Ravenna, Italy; lives and works in Milan) has had solo exhibitions of her work organized at Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia (2010); the Irish Museum of Modern Art; Dublin (2004); and the Art Institute of Chicago (2004). Her work has been included in significant group shows and biennales including *Portrait of the Artist as a Young (Wo) Man*, Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli (2014); *Deep Feelings*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems (2013); the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale, Thessaloniki (2011); *Seeing Is a Kind of Thinking: A Jim Nutt Companion*, MCA, Chicago, IL (2011); *mémoires du futur - la collection Olbricht*, La Maison Rouge, Paris (2011); *Italics: Italian art between tradition and revolution, 1968-2008*, MCA, Chicago, IL (2009), and Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2008); *Hammer Contemporary Collection: Part II*, Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2007); *Rauschenberg to Murakami, 1964-2003*, Museo Correr, 50th Venice Biennale (2003); XXV Biennial of Sao Paolo, Sao Paolo (2002); *Form follows Fiction*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin (2001); *New to the Modern: Recent Acquisitions from the Department of Drawings*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2001); *Studio International*, Hydra Workshop, Hydra (2001); *Painting at the Edge of the World*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (2001); *Fatto in Italia*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva; ICA, London (1997); and *Tradition & Innovation. Italian Art since 1945*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul (1995). Her work is held in public and private collections including Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Torino, Italy; Art Institute of Chicago, Collezione Maramotti; Reggio Emilia, Italy, Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection, Torino, Italy, Van Tuyckom - Taets Collection, Brussels, Belgium and The Napoleone Collection, London.

About Lehmann Maupin

Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin founded Lehmann Maupin in 1996. The gallery represents a diverse range of American artists, as well as artists and estates from across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. It has been instrumental in introducing numerous artists from around the world in their first New York exhibitions. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, the gallery prioritizes personal investigations and individual narratives. Lehmann Maupin prizes the distinct conceptual approaches that its artists offer on the essential matters that shape international culture today, including gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism. In 2013, with two locations in New York, significant interest in its artists abroad, and growing opportunities in new markets, Lehmann Maupin opened an additional location in Hong Kong, followed by Seoul in 2017. For more information on the gallery and its artists, visit www.lehmannmaupin.com

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

lehmannmaupin.com

New York

501 West 24th Street
536 West 22nd Street
New York NY 10011
Telephone +1 212 255 2923

Hong Kong

407 Pedder Building
12 Pedder Street
Central Hong Kong
Telephone +852 2530 0025

Seoul

74-18 Yulgok-ro3-gil
Jongno-gu Seoul
Telephone +822 725 0094

LEHMANN MAUPIN

Kader Attia, *Héroes Heridos*, Through December 22, 2018, HONG KONG

Angel Otero, *Piel de Luna*, Through December 22, 2018, SEOUL

Mandy El Sayegh, *MUTATIONS IN BLUE, WHITE AND RED*, Through December 22, 2018, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Catherine Opie, *The Modernist*, Through January 12, 2019, West 24th Street, NEW YORK

Gilbert & George, *THE BEARD PICTURES*, January 10—March 16, 2019, HONG KONG & SEOUL

McArthur Binion, *Hand:Work*, January 17—March 2, West 24th Street, NEW YORK

For more information on Margherita Manzelli, or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923 or kathryn@lehmannmaupin.com.

###

lehmannmaupin.com

New York
501 West 24th Street
536 West 22nd Street
New York NY 10011
Telephone +1 212 255 2923

Hong Kong
407 Pedder Building
12 Pedder Street
Central Hong Kong
Telephone +852 2530 0025

Seoul
74-18 Yulgok-ro3-gil
Jongno-gu Seoul
Telephone +822 725 0094