

Alessandro Albanese

Blow Up

Solo Show of Asher Liftin

Galleria Alessandro Albanese

Opening Tuesday 5th of April 2022, 6pm

From the 6th of April to the 25th of May 2022

Address: Via Cosimo del Fante 14, 20122 Milano

Curated by Anna Vittoria Magagna

Alessandro Albanese Gallery presents Asher Liftin's (New York, 1998) exhibition with the latest paintings by the artist, who works in figurative representation with a deep reflection on the image and our perception.

Liftin is interested in our evolving relationship to images and the effect they have on our minds as bearers of information and complex concepts. The artist focuses on the synthesis of visual stimuli coming from different photographic sources and cinema directors such as Antonioni, to whom the title refers. The references also span the history of art and its dearest themes, such as portrait, landscape, and still life. In his work, these subjects are presented without the typical hierarchies imposed by aesthetic canons, and they are generated from a contemporary language, which, especially through the lens of cinema, has re-established a democratic balance among heterogeneous figures and objects.

Asher Liftin's works investigate the theme of reproduction in art: its potential and its limits. Moving from the appropriation of images and their reworking, Liftin combines elements of the past with those of his present. *Mirror* is a representation of a selfie taken in the mirror by a group of girls at the Met Gala in New York, but also refers to Manet's famous bar at the Folies-Bergère, while *Reflection* is inspired by a David Lynch film and a painting by Luc Tuymans.

The artist is also interested in the continuous transformation and mutation of the image. Some representations are liquefied, absorbed in vortices that swirl until they swallow their subjects. *Candles with Flowers* is an example of this, with an image first digitally processed and then reconstructed in painting.

The title *Blow Up* also refers to the idea of enlarging the representation until individual fragments are visible. The well-known film also investigates the relationship between subjectivity and objectivity, a theme that is close to the artist. Indeed, through references to the past and the present, Liftin presents versions and sub-versions of his own subjectivity, of what surrounds him, of his own visual stimuli and proposes them to the observer of his canvases as a suggestion, waiting to be read and resolved according to his own experiences and imagination. Even Fellini is an

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important reference for the artist. The director followed a similar attitude, deliberately leaving his films unresolved, waiting to be read by their users.

The continuous questioning of the subject is also stimulated by some clues in his pictorial work. The canvas has marks of color broken into primary colored inks, almost like a photograph in which you can see the pixels. Many canvases have embedded some declared plots, similar to digital filters, which play with the drafting of color, the image, its digital working, and painting that has the mission to recompose and reconstruct.

Blow Up reflects on the imaginary in which we are immersed, highlighting the strength defined by the power of its reproduction, along with the effects it has on our perception, passing through the subjective and unique vision of the artist's work.

ARTIST BIO

Asher Liftin (New York, 1998). Lives and works in New York.

The work of Asher Liftin explores themes of perception, digital media, film, and the history of painting. These themes are linked by a focus on the construction of images and consequently their reconstruction in the mind. Liftin received a B.S. in cognitive science and a B.A. in visual art from Yale University (2021). This double major encouraged a deep exploration of the connection between the scientific processes of visual perception and image-making. Liftin's work has been shown at The Museum of Contemporary Art Westport, as well as galleries in New York City and New Haven. *Blow Up* marks the artist's debut international solo exhibition.