

Alessandro Albanese

Play Pretend

Solo show of Emilia Urbanek

Alessandro Albanese Gallery

Opening Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 6.30pm

Nov. 23 – Dec. 23

Via Cosimo del Fante 14

20122 Milan

Alessandro Albanese Gallery is pleased to announce the first solo show of Emilia Urbanek, titled “Play Pretend” and curated by Valeria Schäfer. In this exhibition, the artist examines the uncertainty and inner conflict we are exploring nowadays. Blurred lines as an expression of this timidity are dominating Emilia’s compositions. Figures are undefined, genderless, although bodies and faces can be identified, as they are elongating over the canvas, but everything remains in an unclear situation. In a temptation of explanation. “Play Pretend” is a metaphor for this attempting.

As children, we are all somehow playing a role, we are disguising, we are pretending and yet unsure. In these paintings, the artist is evoking an unreal scenery: a bunny close to a vase of flowers, a cat in the reed, bodies tussling in water, figures standing in a cornfield. The color palette oscillates between rusty red, sand and turquoise enhancing both the scenery and the central topic of the interplay between desire and doubt, lust and, over all, skepticism.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Emilia Urbanek, born 2000 in Berlin, studies at the Universität der Kunst since 2019 in the masterclass of well-known German artist Prof. Thomas Zipp. Emilia’s works focus on the "examination of being", creating curious and obscure moments of intimacy through an interplay between desire and doubt, lust and skepticism.

The artists’ latest exhibitions include UdK Berlin Rundgang, Klasse Zipp (July 2022), Weserhalle Group Exhibition (Sept. 2022), Artist Inside Group Exhibition (Sept. 2022). Emilia will have a group exhibition with Eigenart Gallery in Feb. 2023.