

Alessandro Albanese  
Vernissage Mercoledì 17 Novembre 2021, h 6:30 pm  
17 Nov – 20 Dec 2021  
Via Cosimo del Fante 14  
20122 Milan

Text by Anna Vittoria Magagna

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, Alessandro Albanese Gallery presents the exhibition "*La società delle Mangrovie*," a solo show by Mattia Sugamiele with a body of work that spans from physical and virtual mediums, including painting, sculpture and digital work. As in a virtual environment, the elements of the exhibition overlap and juxtapose in harmony, fluctuating between fluidity, study of light, layers of changing colors, geometric and abstract shapes, fabrics and foam rubber. The title of the exhibition recalls the habitat of mangroves, which lives in hybrid waters between fresh and salt currents, just as the new contemporary life lives between real and virtual.

The pictorial work is composed of dual souls, from the world of digital and the fluidity of color. A parallelism emerges between digital painting, where Photoshop becomes a tool for stratification and addition of compositional layers, along with physical painting diluted with oil, airbrushed and combined with the porous touch of spray, where the layers of color mimic the reflections of clouds and water surfaces.

*- I am interested in the transformation of the image, which changes until it disappears, often deprived of the system of signs that it was able to evoke, creating a void in which technology finds its space-*. Sugamiele's research questions the interaction between man, together with his memories, actions, desires, hopes, and the evolution of the technological sphere that shapes our contemporary world. Free from the image or the punctual figuration, he lets emerge depths and constellations of the chromatic gesture that radiates all over the canvas that screens out of a purely two-dimensionality and turns into three dimensions, thanks to the intervention of the foam rubber.

In his work on ontological technology, Gilbert Simondon hypothesizes the entry of objects into human lives as agents capable of activating relationships between human beings and space in a more complex, almost autopoietic way. Starting from this suggestion, the artist created an installation of sculptures resulting from virtual sampling, then shaped with brightly colored canvas coverings that mimic normal mapping; a technique used to recreate the complexity of the surface relief found in nature within the digital world. Even the shapes often recall the geometries of those used by programmers as units for more complex objects, and alternate with sculptures with less defined contours in which it seems that color is the only source capable of smoothing the form.

*La società delle Mangrovie* is a virtual and physical exhibition. A subtle dualism that belongs to our lives, current more than ever, that is becoming more and more important in our historical period, in which the new word of phy-gital is declined with reference to pshysical and digital lives articulated between in and out portals, inside and outside, between close and parallel worlds that continuously interchange, built by a set of images of dual derivation, hybrid and synthetic.

BIO EN

MATTIA SUGAMIELE (Erice, 1984)

Lives and works in Milan.

After a degree in production and audio video at the IED in Milan, he developed a special interest in and decided to enroll at the Brera Academy in Milan, where he earned a degree in Arts Visuals with pictorial practice in 2016. During the academic process, he was included in some group exhibitions, including the First Art Biennale of Trapani curated by Antonio Sammartano (2013), Graphic in Opera at Villa Gori (Lucca, 2013), the collective New Looks at the Magi Museum (Pieve di Cento, BO, 2014), Amori Possibili at the Former Studio of Piero Manzoni (Milan, 2014) and Pittura Futura at Space Rivoli 2 by Roberto Casiraghi (Milan, 2016). Along with the pictorial practice, Sugamiele integrates the musical dimension, creating a project of sound painting MM/SS performed at the Meet Factory (2014), at the Festival of European Photography (Reggio Emilia, 2014) and at Café Central (Brussels, 2015). Starting in 2017, the artist has dedicated himself entirely to the development of his research with a period of residency at Viafarini (Milan 2020-2021) with exhibitions at Photo Israel (Tel Aviv, 2017), Palazzo Oneto at Manifesta 12 (Palermo, 2018), participating to the Initiatives of Studi Festival, (Milan, 2018 and 2019) and including his work in the Kaleidoscope collective (Trapani, 2019) and Rea Fair (Milan, 2020). This year, after the prize exhibition at Hangar Art Center (Brussels, 2021), he exhibited his work at Nocivelli Prize (Brescia, 2021), a.topos (Venice, 2021), Edicola Radetzky (Milan, 2021), Art on video curated by Chiara Guidi (Salerno, 2021), Artbite by Nicoletta Rusconi, Cica Museum (South Korea 2021), Die Digitale (Dusseldorf, 2021), Bekarei (Berlin, 2022), Gallery Bomba (Moscow, 2021) and a solo show at Alessandro Albanese gallery (Milan 2021).