

Rehs Contemporary is proud to formally announce “Reflecting the Real,” an exhibition of classical paintings with a contemporary twist. At Rehs Contemporary, we constantly strive to bring masterfully executed works to the public. Our ultimate goal is to celebrate the good, the talented, and the skilled through a series of exhibitions featuring established, as well as up-and-coming contemporary artists in the academic field. With the gallery’s foundation in the 19th century European painting market, it is a priority to present works from today’s artists whose technical abilities allow them to stand alongside many of the most well respected painters in history.

“Reflecting the Real,” which opens Saturday October 3rd, 2015, features the work of 19 artists (all connected to the Grand Central Atelier) working in a range of classical subjects from figurative, landscape to still-life imagery, and will showcase the reemergence of traditional technique in contemporary art. Once an immense and admired movement in the art world, realism was eventually eclipsed by abstraction and surrealism and fell out of favor in the public eye in the mid-1900s. In recent times, artists have been heralded for their ideas and conceptualization but it appears the art world has found a renewed appreciation for technical ability and mastery.

The show catalog is prefaced with a few words by Gabriel Weisberg, professor at the University of Minnesota and one of the most respected art historians specializing in Nineteenth-Century Realist and Naturalist Art. Weisberg feels that “with a training to paint what is visible, these avid admirers of painters from the past have made contemporary realism a powerful force. Finding many ways to paint reality has given these artists an opportunity to reactivate tradition with new life, thereby making their works fervent examples of the ways in which the past can be reflexive and motivating for a new era.”

While “Reflecting the Real” will literally be an exhibition of works reflecting the world as it appears, each artist goes through their own creative process, finds their own inspiration and conveys their own message with their artwork. A very personal and moving work, “Lacrime D’ Amore,” by Carlos Madrid, is a small still life with bright and bold colors but more importantly was painted in memory of his late wife who passed away in 2012. As Madrid himself puts it, “Her blind Faith in me helped me through difficult times of struggle in becoming the artist that I am now. I could not have done it without her and for that I am eternally grateful. I leave it up to the viewer to interpret the symbols in Lacrime D’ Amore and hopefully they will see and feel the huge amount of love that I put in that little painting.”

Other artists took a more contemporary and conceptual approach, much like Anthony Mastromatteo. For “Reflecting the Real,” Mastromatteo completed an entire series of works in which he investigates the difference in approach between engaging a subject at its true size and then again at a heroic size, well beyond its original true size. In his own words, Anthony says, “What I have found is that I am tied much more deeply to rendering the subject as it is when painting at the true size, whereas when working in a grander scale, I become more interested in creating a successful painting that begins with a sense of the subject but ends with artistic choices centered on paint application through intelligent brushwork and color choices.” It is the difference between a strict realism and something closer to a “magic realism.”



The show will also feature Todd M. Casey's "The Great Escape", Ken Salaz's "Annunciation" and Erik Koeppel's "View Over Fort Ticonderoga", along with many others!

Be sure to visit www.rehs.com for additional information regarding this special event in the coming months. Rehs Contemporary Galleries, Inc. is located at 5 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. For more information regarding the gallery, call (212) 355-5710 or visit their website www.rehs.com.

Participating Artists:

Carol Broman
Todd Casey
Devin Cecil-Wishing
Angela Cunningham
Tony Curanaj
Nancy Fletcher
Danny Grant
Erik Koeppel
Sarah Lamb

Carlos Madrid
Anthony Mastromatteo
Ted Minoff
Irvin Rodriguez
Camie Salaz
Ken Salaz
Lauren Sansaricq
Travis Seymour
Justin Wood
Kevin Wueste



Anthony Mastromatteo
Where Art Often Starts
1 x 1 inch (Set of 9 – 12 x 12 inches overall)
Oil on board



Anthony Mastromatteo
Where Art Often Starts – Deluxe (Green Crayon)
12 x 12 inches (Set of 9 unique panels)
Oil on panel



Anthony Mastromatteo
Where Art Often Starts – Deluxe (Pink Heart)
12 x 12 inches (Set of 9 unique panels)
Oil on panel



Carlos Madrid
Lacrime D' Amore
Oil on canvas
21 x 25 inches



Ken Salaz
Annunciation – Spring Sunrise
Oil on canvas
32 x 48 inches



Sarah Lamb
Camellias
Oil on canvas
11 x 17 inches



Todd M. Casey
The Great Escape
Oil on canvas
36 x 48 inches