

VAN DER PLAS GALLERY

Under The Mask, a metamorphosis

Exhibition Dates : August 10, 2020 – August 19, 2020

Location : van der Plas Gallery, 156 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002

(NEW YORK, NY – August 9th, 2020) From August 10th to August 19th, van der Plas Gallery is pleased to present the works of sixty-four artists from New York City and abroad. We have asked artists to submit works made in response to the covid-19 pandemic. As we have all been thrust into a Kafkaesque storyline through the sheer force of the universe, and a trajectory likely the result of some sort of fault of our leaders, we have a moment to reflect on constructing the future in a disarrayed point in time. We find ourselves in search of transformation after all the chaos. What we'd like to know is, how have we cultivated ourselves, our lives, and our overall shared environment as a result of the pandemic? A wave of new virility has swept us up into deciding to break and reconfigure social systems and global norms. We've resorted to protests as a means of collective action for establishing the beginning of a new thoroughfare, and now we nurture each other using the resources we've cultivated in isolation. The greatest whirlwind of metamorphosis has settled. How has this experience shaped our identities and the many masks we wear to face our new world? The works in this show expand across a wide range of styles while addressing the issues of identity through the directness of the face. They exhibit a wide range of materials and formats, some unconventional and others fragile. We welcome experimentation and vulnerability, and search for moments of nicety while maintaining a degree of distance. Within the works, the artists confront the self, and in doing so, produce and exude acceptance and determination, leaving the viewer with an honest and deeply personal perspective.

The social and mental impact is felt throughout all the works, which are carefully crafted to portray the overwhelming and transforming energy around us. Penny Parkhurst Oliphant's limited edition archival photograph, *"The Artist's House,"* gives us a chilling feeling of isolation. The artist uses this dark captured moment to reflect on the frightening truth of loneliness in a place that should represent comfort, one's own home. Eva Huston's piece *"Hope From Rage"* comes from a less daunting approach. Using paint and chalk on wood, Eva Huston's childlike and simplistic medium represents the accurate idea of metamorphosis, showing us how one can channel rage and fear into hope. Linda Heim's piece, *"Talk on the Street,"* uses her iconic warm color palette symbolically to show the harsh truths and realities of our world. "This is our world, and we are here now," She explains her work and how it resonates with the population. Her version of the subject matter indicates that we are one as people, which also touches upon the global crisis bringing us together as it has done countless times throughout history. A more Surrealist-style piece by Adriana Cerroti, *"Under Her Mask,"* shows her skilled art background, contrasting color palette, and intense visuals. The artwork shows a woman's sharp image of physically purging the pandemic with explosive imagery. The work shows us the chaos that one endures through such terrifying times. This same message is one that Val Tarsia touches on, specifically in the piece, *"Self Portrait Doffing Mask."* Also, using a vibrant, contrasting color palette, Tarsia's self-portrait shows self-reflecting, both literally and metaphorically.

As a whole, "Under The Mask, Metamorphosis" is a collective work from artists who use their skills to necessarily draw out what the population on every level is feeling, living, surviving, and how it has changed them, us, everyone, and everything. What is next? What have we become? How do we cope with pain? How do we truly see ourselves, others, and society as a whole?

156 Orchard Street, NY, NY 10002 | 212-227-8983 | vanderplasgallery.com
Open Wednesday to Sunday 12 to 6 PM or by appointment Monday and Tuesday

VAN DER PLASGALLERY

How do we live with a lack of control? What are our flaws, and how long will we, individually and as a population, indulge in those flaws? Most importantly, who are we under the masks we wear every day of our lives?

About van der Plas Gallery

Van der Plas has been a premier contemporary art gallery in New York City for over twenty-five years, known for showing works primarily by outsider and emerging artists as well as academically trained artists from New York City and throughout the world. Founder Adriaan van der Plas left his hometown of Vienna, Austria, and in 1980, after extensive traveling throughout the Americas, settled in New York City. He strives to find art originating from the innermost creative spirit. For more information, contact Adriaan van der Plas adriaan@vanderplasmuseum.com.

156 Orchard Street, NY, NY 10002 | 212-227-8983 | vanderplasmuseum.com
Open Wednesday to Sunday 12 to 6 PM or by appointment Monday and Tuesday