



Ghetto Etherico

Solo show by Bjorn Calleja

10-18 / 11-21 2024

opening day 18-10 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Studio11gallery is proud to present Bjorn Calleja's first solo show in Rome. With his new body of works titled "Ghetto Etherico", Bjorn Calleja immerses us in a world where the surreal, the spiritual, and the deeply personal converge. In this body of work, Calleja's distinctive figures—both monumental and minuscule—navigate shifting landscapes that evoke the tension between individuality and collective experience, isolation and connection, confinement and transformation.

The recurring presence of small, almost insignificant figures is a hallmark of Calleja's practice. These figures inhabit vast, distorted environments, often overshadowed by larger forms that suggest societal pressures or existential dilemmas. Yet they are never powerless; their constant movement, adaptation, and engagement with these overwhelming surroundings reflect the resilience of the human spirit. They are part of the artist's broader meditation on how individuals negotiate their place in the world, not as isolated beings, but as part of an intricate, larger whole.

Works like "Butt-ends of my days and ways" and "Totem of Undying" exemplify Calleja's exploration of identity as layered, fluid, and constructed. The figures—both large and small—interact with one another in ways that suggest fragmentation, yet also a dynamic process of self-construction. The layers of vibrant color and form are more than just aesthetic choices; they mirror the complexity of human experience, where the self is constantly being shaped by both internal and external forces.

In "The Hollow Men," the figures take on a quieter, more introspective tone. Here, Calleja delves into the dissonance between outward appearances and internal states of being. The serene landscape contrasts with the emotional weight the figures carry, pointing to the artist's ongoing investigation into the masks we wear in response to societal expectations and our inner truths.

"Ghetto Etherico" doesn't confine itself to one theme but instead opens up multiple avenues of reflection: on identity, confinement, transformation, and the human capacity to navigate, resist, and redefine the spaces we occupy. The etheric ghetto, as Calleja imagines it, is a realm where boundaries blur, where the self is both challenged and reimaged and where the possibility for change, though elusive, remains ever-present.

This exhibition is a multi-layered exploration of the human condition. Calleja's work invites us to reflect on the structures—visible and invisible—that shape our lives and our identities, while also celebrating the small yet vital acts of persistence and reinvention that define us. "Ghetto Etherico" is both a visual and conceptual engagement with what it means to be human, caught between the forces that seek to contain us and the constant drive to transcend them.

Studio11 is a global gallery specializing in modern and contemporary art. Based in Rome, Studio11 strives to promote art by International artists building dialogues with Italian institutions and museums.

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