

Between Reason and Imagination

January 23 - March 1, 2025



Alexander Tinei
Blue Face, 2010
Oil on canvas
40 x 32 in (101.6 x 81.3 cm)

A reception for the artists will be held on
Friday, January 23 from 5 - 8 pm.

For as long as civilization has existed, two powerful forces have been at odds: reason and emotion. On one side were those who saw reason and logic as the keys to unlocking truth and understanding the world. On the other side were those who argued that emotion, with its raw intensity and depth, was the gateway to deeper truths about human experience. In essence, it is a struggle over which force should guide human thought, mind, and spirit.

For this exhibition, *Between Reason and Imagination*, we chose art that contained this tension, that contained a dialogue with the ideas that were born and forged around these two camps. We were compelled to find not only the emotion and imagination that abound freely in art, but also works that engage, converse with, or subvert reason. And in keeping with the ethos and nature of the gallery and its founder, this exhibition includes an amalgamation of artists from different cultures who offer us different views of utopia and dystopia.

In the first room, Jeffrey Gibson and Entang Wiharso engage in a vibrant exchange between abstraction and imagination. Gibson's bold, colorful, angular forms push the boundaries of the canvas, while Wiharso's fantastical creations, reminiscent of botanical illustrations, transport us to otherworldly realms. In both works we sense a tension pulling in one direction or the other - one form negotiating the boundaries of what is expected and accepted for a work of art to conform to, and the other grounded in reality yet free to imagine a new way of being.

In the final room, Thomas Bangsted, Anna Leonhardt, Volha Panco and Moris use mixed media and photography to blur the boundaries between perception and reality. Bangsted and Panco create alternate realities, while Leonhardt and Moris layer color and imagery, from paint forming a new boundary beyond the canvas to references to high and low art juxtaposed against each other. These works challenge us to look closer and question what we think we see, what we think we know.

While the exhibition explores the play of reason and emotion in the works themselves, we also want it to be a space that allows us, the viewers, to discover and explore our own inner dialogue that oscillates between reason and emotion. We invite you to find the reasons and emotions that are staged in this space, and those that swirl within you, to discover those that we miss. Art can help us in this endeavor, for it is in the liminal spaces between reason and imagination that a world is created. What world will it be?

Curated by Daniel Sachs.

CONTACT:

Artist Inquiries: marc@marcstrauss.com | 212.510.7646

Press Inquiries: erin@marcstrauss.com | 212.510.7646

Designed by: martina@marcstrauss.com | 212.510.7646



Jeffrey Gibson

Trade, 2011

Acrylic on recycled and collaged painting,
glass beads, steel studs.
67 x 50 in (170 x 127 cm)