

LAUNCH LA presents the eighth edition of our Guest Curator series with a group exhibition of artists from the US and abroad presented by James Arriaga and Ian Hickey and their LA Contemporary Gallery.

LA Contemporary Gallery is proud to present *Expressions*, a group exhibition featuring young and emerging artists from around the globe. This singular world expo-style showcase will bring together developing masters from Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, the UK, and the US, in a celebration of technique and the shared pursuit of excellence.

The mission of LA Contemporary and *Expressions* is to foster a dialogue between artists and audiences on the bleeding-edge of what is next. By showcasing some of the best and brightest talents practicing today, *Expressions* invites you to explore the intersection of technical prowess and dynamic narrative of the individual.

Expressions is a testament to LA Contemporary's continued commitment to curating exceptional and diverse art experiences for the community.

Hours:

Opening weekend:

Friday, 12/8, 4 -10pm

Saturday, 12/9, 12 - 8pm

Sunday, 12/10, 12 - 5pm

Monday 12/11- Friday 12/15, 12 – 8pm

Closing weekend:

Saturday, 12/16, 12 - 9pm

Sunday 12/17, 12 – 5

About the Artists

K. T. Kobel (b.1988, UK). Lives and works in Amsterdam, NL.

Kobel is a figurative painter who delves into the complexities of the human condition, with a particular focus on the psychological effects of trauma. Through his style of visual obscurity and concealed meaning, he seeks to bring coherence and closure to the disorder and chaos that often arises from these experiences.

In his art, Kobel isolates fragments of time that are shrouded from their original context and transforms them into thought-provoking and emotionally resonant pieces. By imbuing these fragments with newfound significance, he creates evocative symbols that capture the elusive nature of memory itself. Kobel's use of airbrush adds a soft, almost ethereal quality to his paintings, which often depict foreboding scenarios that call into question the boundaries between the mundane and the absurd.

Filippo Cegani (b. 1993, Italy) Filippo A.L. Cegani is an Italian painter based in Milan.

Cegani paints metaphors of conversations or ideas, the imagery of masculinity, projecting metaphysical paintings in the third millennia. His most recent works present research on armours and fetish gear. Both of these items have the peculiarity of masking an individual as well as protecting him. Cegani wants to create a sense of mystery in the painting, as if the image itself and its meaning is difficult to grasp, it seems to the artist that a message that is

too direct makes the audience lose focus on the vehicle of the image itself. As the artist claims, forcing someone to analyze the painting makes the conversation between the viewer and the painting more personal.

His meticulously and masterfully produced airbrush paintings explore religious and cultural Italian themes in a contemporary context. His work bridges the gap between Baroque imagery and a modern technical execution resulting in extremely high quality dreamlike modern pieces that dance along the faint line of vague familiarity and comfortable sanctuary.

RAGE (Germany)

RAGE is one of the most important and active trainwriters in Hamburg. As a member of the Legendary DSF crew, he developed his own eye-catching style from the. With an active career starting back in 1998, he continues to evolve an even more individual and unique style plumbng from typography and graphic design.

RAGE is a German urban artist from Hamburg with a widespread international presence. He discovered his love for art as an expression of disobedience and non-conformism in the late 1990's. For over 25 years RAGE has found in graffiti and street art his creative territory. Working by himself or in collaboration with other artists, he has been exploring trains as an urban element of choice and as a substrate for his visual narrative. RAGE pushes and blurs the boundaries of graffiti, typography and fine art. His interventions are an extension of his disregard of conventional societal norms, a form of protest against the system.

Lazar Georgiev (b. 1999, Bulgaria)

Lazar Georgiev is a visual artist working in the field of painting. his work tackles the collective unconscious of eastern European nostalgia, childhood, pop-culture and counterculture, integrating the familiar objects he grew up with. The compositions resemble collage-like surrealistic scenes, creating multiple narratives through airbrush renderings of his memories and images that inspired his work.

Yuka Katsuki (Japan)

Hailing from Japan, Yuka Katsuki seamlessly weaves the essence of animation into every canvas, employing the intricate art of silk-screening. Drawing inspiration from the fluidity of animation frames, each piece captures the dance of colors and forms with a nostalgic nod to traditional animation. Through a harmonious blend of childlike playfulness and technical precision, the artist crafts a visual symphony that radiates positivity and resonates with the viewer's sense of nostalgia. Witness the magic as vibrant hues and dynamic compositions come together to celebrate the timeless joy of animated moments on canvases that evoke both wonder and sentiment.

DANIEL LOPEZ (B. 1982 USA)

Lopez discovered his passion for art after overcoming a lifelong struggle with heroin addiction. Through his art, he seeks to forge a deep rooted connection with his culture and spirituality. Drawing inspiration from the masters of renaissance art, Daniel is a classically trained oil painter renowned for his expansive murals that grace the landscapes of the west coast. His art serves as a powerful homage to the mistakes of a painful past, while also being a means of asking for forgiveness, and a journey towards redemption. Making it a profound reflection of his personal transformation.

Danny Ische-Knoblauch (US)

Danny Ische-Knoblauch is a distinguished pencil graphite artist renowned for crafting dreamlike scenes that gracefully traverse the realms of childhood nostalgia and teenage angst. His evocative works read like visual poetry, delicately capturing the essence of fleeting memories and profound emotions. With each stroke of the pencil, Danny Ische-Knoblauch weaves a tapestry of intricate details, breathing life into a world that resonates with viewers on a deeply personal level. His art serves as a poignant exploration of the complexities of adolescence, blending innocence with the turbulence of growing up. Rooted in a profound understanding of the human experience, Danny Ische-Knoblauch's creations are a testament to the power of graphite to convey subtleties and nuances. His meticulous technique and keen attention to detail result in pieces that not only evoke a sense of nostalgia but also invite contemplation. As an artist who navigates the delicate balance between whimsy and introspection, Danny Ische-Knoblauch invites viewers to embark on a visual journey through the corridors of memory. His portfolio stands as a testament to the enduring impact of art in translating the intangible into tangible emotions, making him a luminary in the realm of pencil graphite masterpieces.

PWG (US)

PWG, a mysterious character from Los Angeles, breathes life into tiles through hand-painted works that beckon viewers into an alternate universe. His creations serve as windows to a future both intriguing and foreboding, offering glimpses of future relics and a nuanced exploration of a dystopian tomorrow. With meticulous strokes, PWG unveils a world where brands assert a more conspicuous presence in our daily lives, prompting reflection on the evolving intersection of consumerism and existence. These tiles become portals to a thought-provoking realm, where the artist's keen eye transforms mundane surfaces into canvases that challenge perceptions and invite contemplation on the trajectory of our collective journey.

LAUNCH LA believes exposure to the arts enhances quality of life and strengthens community for all through the shared appreciation of creative expression in all its forms and hybrids. LAUNCH LA is passionate about providing all artists regardless of race, color, creed or sexual orientation with quality opportunities to present themselves and their creations that reflect our times to a curious and enthusiastic audience at important happenings throughout Los Angeles.

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