

“Splash” around in the hyperrealism pool at Plus One Gallery London



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Plus One Gallery's summer show *Splash* serves as inspiration for a breathtaking and stimulating collection of hyperrealist artworks. Symbols of glamour, summertime happiness and melancholy, swimming pools and the shimmering cool water are present throughout the series, though with differing means of representation.

We look at four of the pieces on show until 22nd August 2015, which exemplify this majestic exhibition.

White Hot by Toby Boothman



White Hot by Toby Boothman is a continuation of the artist's famed body of work, centered around human figures, glowing translucency and intensity. The powerful and intense depiction of sunlight is accomplished through a subtle white balance exposure manipulation, allowing for the light to penetrate through.

Blue Roll Beach by Matt Story



Inspired by human gestures and shapes, Matt Story's oil paintings capture certain moments in time in a dreamlike state. The artist's *Blue Roll Beach* piece holds powerful meaning, with water being representative of a self-reflection or cleansing of the soul.

Woman in a Boat by Gustavo Fernandes



Gustavo Fernandes is more adventurous than his counterparts, with stronger and vibrant colour palettes in his artwork. The striking *Woman in a Boat* showcases the painter's rigorous technique and strong traces, representing the intense sunlight and the different variations of shadows.

Spot the Dog II by Matt Francis



As a storyteller, Mike Francis takes on a more imaginary approach to his hyperrealist art pieces. Mixing urban with more natural scenery as the backdrop for his characters, the artist creates a narrative that viewers are invited to interpret and add to. Francis' past work as a commercial illustrator is noticeable in his

hyperrealist oeuvre. *Spot the Dog II*, similar to 50s postcards, is a fine example of the combination of the two art forms by Francis.

The Naked Truth

5 Jun — 1 Jul 2013 at the Plus One Gallery in London, United Kingdom

28 MAY 2013



Juan Cossio, Red, Oil on board, 110 x 150 cm

Achieving a flawless depiction of the human figure has long been the battle throughout the world of art. Not only must the artist be successful in their rendition of human condition, it is the staple of the artists training or artistic talent and has been since antiquity. As the intervention of religion and politics has abated, the human figure has been explored for what it is, not solely what it represents, allowing for freedom of artistic expression and autonomous interpretation.

Plus One Gallery's exhibition "The Naked Truth" is an appreciation of the human figure in contemporary hyperrealist art and the importance of the relationship between the artist and their subject. The artists represented will be Toby Boothman, Tom Martin, Juan Cossio and Hubert de Lartigue; all of which borrow an aspect of conventional painting, whether that is composition or technique, and execute them in a contemporary manner.

While Boothman uses a traditional Flemish painting technique to create his corporeal nudes, De Lartigue borrows a compositional approach to render his works timeless, contrasting the sensual with the chaste. Cossio draws our attention to the human expression by draping his nudes in stark fabric and placing them in specific arrangements connoting ideals of religious imagery; the austerity of his works however, making the paintings resolutely contemporary. Martin's figures appear out of context, and in turn, somewhat vulnerable when juxtaposed, for instance, with large scale everyday objects. His use of perspective to lure the viewer into a hyper-reality is reminiscent of Pre-Raphaelite methods and artworks. Rangel's hybrid nude, in a traditional contrapposto stance, really demonstrates the coming together of Classical and Contemporary art with the monochrome figure set against a bold yellow backdrop. With a background in Christian iconography, Rangel seems to modernise the conventional nude whilst retaining the incredible skill employed to successfully celebrate the figure.

The precision and aptitude of these hyperrealist painters allows for a deeper exploration into the human condition whilst creating a completely innovative yet surreal context; a new sense of reality. The artists and their works represented are a means of furthering the way we portray and view the human figure in art.

Text by Dee Akhtar



Plus One Gallery

Plus One Gallery is dedicated to the development and promotion of British and international contemporary hyperrealist art. The gallery maintains a high standard of painters and sculptors, representing a number of Masters within the field alongside an array of emerging artists.

Gallery profile

Location
London, United Kingdom

Founded in
2001











