

Just an Illusion Group Show

AKACORLEONE, David Bruce, Gaspard Louane,
Imon Boy, Ludovilk Myers, Mina Mania, Solomostry

Press Release

July 7th, 2022

1 / 2

14 July - 13 August 2022, Seefeldstrasse 52, 8008 Zürich

4 - 27 August 2022, Rue des Bains 52, 1203 Geneva



Graffiti is a fierce lifestyle, an attitude and a mindset. This exhibition is the epitome of contemporary art which showcases international emerging and young artist who are not only inspired by their roots in graffiti - they live it! Welcome to *Just an Illusion* presented at Kolly Gallery from July 14 to August 13, 2022 in Zurich and from August 4 to 27, 2022 in Geneva.

„Open up your eyes and look around“ - *Just An Illusion*, Imagination, 1982.

In the artistic areas of literature, plays and fine art, the term illusion is often used to suggest a certain reality, to enchant the audience or to produce augmented effects. The Latin term *illudere* is related to the root word *ludere*, which means "to play". Etymologically, it is obvious that illusions „play“ with or deceive our senses and judgments. This exhibition aims to do the opposite, to "deceive" the general illusion of graffiti and street art. So often the audience has certain expectations of graffiti and street art, be it stylized words and letters, the extensive use of spray cans or a wild and urban aesthetic of public space. The exhibition *Just An Illusion*, should expose the negatively afflicted „illusion of graffiti and street art“ which is still and often considered the "enfant terrible" of art history.

Just „open up your eyes and look around...“ as in the song *Just an Illusion* (1982) by the British trio Imagination states. The exhibition encourages to see urban arts with different eyes, welcoming it as part of the contemporary art movement. The artworks of the exhibition demonstrate great versatility and dexterity using different materials and surfaces including high quality craftsmanship. From fine art painting, to optical illusions, to ceramic. The artworks are multi-layered and reveal depth.

The exceptional creativity of the following artists originates from their graffiti lifestyle, attitude and mindset. Although producing studio-based artworks, they are inspired by their graffiti and urban practice day by day. The graffiti mindsets taught the artists that there are no limits and (almost) no rules. Part of that is freedom of expression often times off the radar, flexibility and creativity to find solutions to seemingly unsolvable challenges. Passion, liberty, self-determination and tenacity characterize the creative paths of these exceptional artists



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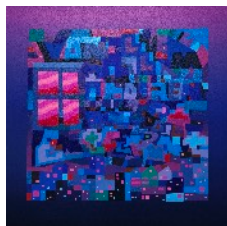
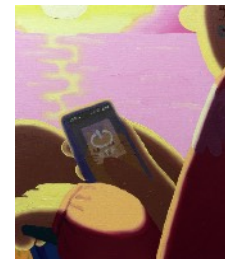
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Anything but sticking to his name, like a serious graffiti writer, **Imon Boy** (ES) goes with the flow, narrates from the life of Generation Y and – whether intentionally or not – he is the protagonist of his artworks. His paintings give insight into moods of daily life of the contemporary generation, portraying the extensive tattoo culture, the omnipresent relationship to digital and mobile devices and the quest for freedom.



Gaspard Louane (CH) represents this generation who has been immersed in the suburban culture and at the same time is looking to get closer local traditions and to nature. The intricacy of color juxtaposition and colorfield is stunning. He is capable to balance the figurative and the lettering. His artistic direction is dedicated to portray topics near to his heart: his local heritage, cities, experiences of his life and positivity.

A line that at the same time represents a figure - this is **Solomostry** (IT) and his monsters usually occupy the entire surface of the works. He is experimental and works with many different materials, such as painting, wood, paper and ceramic. Once he used to engrave glass of the public metro stations, today he engraves beautiful vases that reminisces antique ceramics.



There is nothing that does not exist **Ludovilk Myers'** (FR) world. The stranger things are the more beauty he sees in them. Myers succeeds precisely in this bizarre amalgamation. The artist employs creativity and expresses it for personal purposes. The works have a mysterious air of balance and imbalance. Facing the canvas with spontaneity the compositions evolve, but the artists stays always connected to his gut feeling.

Mina Mania's (DE) creative practice is dynamic and flowing. Central to this is the union as well as the juxtaposition of round and angular forms in a harmonious pictorial composition. Thus, she places organic and geometric imagery in a vibrant context. The versatile artist uses numerous techniques, such as painting, drawing and graphics and is characterized by the versatility of textures by acrylic, oil, pastel and water-soluble colors partially flow together.



AKACORLEONE (PT) is known for his dexterity and versatility in the usage of colours and materials. Connecting and combining typography, characters, and refined shapes he develops eye-catching compositions based on the primary colors, red, yellow and blue.

David Bruce's (FR) paintings can be located somewhere between painting and illustration as well as pop art, minimalism and art brut. His minimal paintings incorporate no outlines, minimal shadowing, which emphasizes the visual impact of the color fields and a rather two-dimensional and graphic spatial feeling.



Press Contact: Tania Di Brita, tania@kollygallery.ch



KOLLY GALLERY AG - Seefeldstrasse 52, 8008 Zurich - www.kollygallery.com