

LA ART SHOW 2023

Los Angeles Convention Center, West Hall

Booth 701/800

VIP Opening Wednesday Feb 15th from 6PM to 10PM

Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th from 12PM to 8PM

Sunday 19th from 12PM to 6PM



SIMARD BILODEAU CONTEMPORARY is pleased to announce their 12th participation in the LA Art Show. For the 2023 edition, the gallery selected four international artists: Heather Chontos (American, based in France); Tyler Keeton Robbins (Canadian); Emma Larsson (Swedish); and Alfredo Romero (Spanish, based in Mexico). Again, this year, they will be occupying an island booth across the main entrance. They will present a collection of large-scale paintings, a series of watercolors as well as two-dimensional artworks. The five artists find inspiration in what pertains to origins, movement, culture and nature and their ephemeral intrinsic character.

The past and present play a vital role in Heather Chontos' work, holding equal significance as she creates. Moreover, her entire artistic approach is holistic, driven by the motivation to reflect her personal experience both internally and of the world around her. Working from an almost automatic or intuitive impulse, she builds upon each foundational stroke of paint without precognition, entwining each medium until they have come together to display an abstracted yet diaristic snapshot of the artist's life. These collage-like arrangements are rich in texture, depth, and tone due to Chontos' use of unconventional painting techniques and varied choice of materials. Bright groupings of paint forms, organic lines and shapes that intermingle and overlap. Each layer and color coalesce in relation not only to each other, but collectively come together in a dance of asymmetrical harmony. Heather Chontos' work serves as an allegory of life, each one is a composite of the parts, depicting the chaos and balance that we all navigate through life. Her unflinching use of personal experience and perspective creates art that is vulnerable and compelling, it necessitates concerted gazing and reciprocating self-exploration.

Canadian artist, Tyler Keeton Robbins consistently maintains a heavy illustrative style that transcends his medium of choice. Growing up on the Pacific Northwest and coming of age during the 90's, the bold shapes found in the rich art of the surrounding First Nations and the illustrated subculture of skate boarding's second wave, left an indelible mark. With internationally exhibited works ranging from pen and paper, paintings, and murals of up-scaled mark making, Robbins continues to explore the softer side of abstract symbolism, applying evocative form to diverse surfaces. He has worked closely with brands such as Starbucks, Burton, R.E.I., creating murals and large-scale prints for in-store design, textile, and hard goods. Robbins currently lives in the Okanagan Valley with his family, working out of his studio in Kelowna BC.

Emma Larsson is a tireless explorer. For her, painting is about playing freely without intellectualizing the process or planning the result. Her creation comes from an instinctive flow of energy, memories of nature, and freedom. It is solely intuitive and leads to the creation of undetermined shapes and forms that can unintentionally resemble elements of nature, living organisms, flora, and fauna. Her use of watercolor and mixed media on paper is without a doubt her most recognizable practice so far. She has

been deepening her exploration of painting on canvas and other material like fabric, leading to her own singular character, keeping her focus on shapes, forms, and textures.

Spanish artist, Alfredo Romero settled down in Mexico over 12 years ago. A few years ago, his love and fascination for the nuances of cultures in the different regions of Mexico led to the development of a project titled Vestiges of Our Times. As visual testimonies and symbolism of local cultures painted on the facades of buildings are disappearing over time, Romero scouts streets in search of gems that speak volumes of the local past and history of the neighborhoods. With the strappo technique, also used by anthropologists, the artist extracts these pieces of facade making sure to grab as many layers as possible of the different eras that were painted on top of each other. Back in his studio, Romero intervenes on the original piece of facade by adding pigment, paint, graffiti, silver and gold leaf, and sometimes reworking the composition itself. By doing so, he releases a contemporary artwork that becomes a testimony of the past and a permanent artifact. He creates a forever bridge between the old and the new, the history and the contemporary, with a similar approach to the Japanese art of Kintsugi in some of the vestiges he creates.

Heather Chontos, Tyler Keeton Robbins, Emma Larsson and Alfredo Romero's artworks flourish from a moment in time to solidify the expression on canvas, paper and on vestiges. Creating an imprint as a testimony for the collective memory is essential and intrinsic to their creation. They do not sacrifice their integrity for the result, but rather allow the elements of movement, culture, and nature spontaneous flow as it comes onto the artwork.

For more information, you can contact us at 949-371-7414
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