

Painting, Smoking, Eating

PREVIEW: FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 18H30-20H30
EXHIBITION: 3 AUGUST - 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

This exhibition is a collaboration between BEERS London & Saatchi Gallery. Please note that this exhibition is taking place at Saatchi Gallery located at Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London, SW3 4RY.

BEERS London presents *Painting, Smoking, Eating* at Saatchi Gallery, an exhibition co-curated by Andrew Salgado that takes its title from a Philip Guston painting. The exhibition consists of 13 internationally-based artists whose work here considers (rather plainly stated) paintings about painting.

For centuries, artists have obsessed over the tangential, self-reflexive aspects relating to the joys and burdens of their craft. From Velázquez's self-reflexive *Las Meninas* to Modernist iterations like Matisse's *Red Studio* to Norman Rockwell's *Triple Self-Portrait* or more contemporary examples like the works of Dana Schutz or Jonas Wood, the painter's obsession with the *act of painting* itself has become among the most ubiquitous and prevalent of subject matters.

Perhaps the artist's anxiety-laden process lends itself so readily to such reflective analysis. The notion that great art requires both sacrifice *and* artifice, combined with the persistent myth of the creative genius is an increasingly recurrent theme.

True, the artist's journey is one of obsess and dedication, but the included artists here dismantle this mythology with works that are wryly self-aware. Considering the artist's environment and respective bric-a-brac depicted here, we might ask ourselves why artists are so keen to depict themselves as incomplete, in states of partiality? It can be assumed that the artistic journey one of consistent re-examination, and therefore these depictions of artist as outsider might be the most logical means to express this sentiment. Often, the artist's world is depicted alongside food, alcohol, and cigarettes as measures of vice, indulgence and excess. While these works are certain not to answer any of the greater historic or histrionic questions surrounding art and its production or depiction, we are offered a satirical snapshot of the artist's pursuit.



Shai Azoulay: Study The Ant (2024)
Oil on canvas, 170 x 177 cm



Juan De La Rica: Pintor Dormido (2024)
Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 97 cm

EXHIBITING ARTISTS:

Shai Azoulay
Sabrina Bockler
Juan De La Rica
Jonathan Edelhuber
Paul Gagner
Henriette Grahmert
Stefhany Lozano
Roman Manikhin
Jennifer Pochinski
Florent Stoskopf
Jakub Tomáš
Heidi Ukkonen
Helena Wurzel



Stefhany Y. Lozano: Untitled (2024)
Acrylic and oil crayon on canvas, 100 x 70 cm



Henriette Grahmert: Tabledance (2022)
Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 150 cm