

Press Release -- 99Prints

“Not Your Usual Suspects” is an exhibition of contemporary works by 13 international artists | June 25-28 at CADAF Online Art Fair

New York - 99Prints is pleased to announce its online show “Not Your Usual Suspects,” contemporary works by 13 international artists. As in an Agatha Christie novel where individuals (male and female) of all ages and temperaments are brought together to participate, 99Prints has selected artists and works methodically for the CADAF Online Art Fair. The group of artists or “suspects,” ages 22-81, are from the US, Europe, and Asia, in various stages of their careers (from emerging to established), and work in diverse mediums (painting, works on paper, digital drawing, photography, and video art). United on one digital platform the artists’ works in “Not Your Usual Suspects” play off each other in a way that allow the viewer to reflect on current worldwide events while appreciating art for art’s sake, visual poetry, in all its analog and digital iterations.

The art in the show responds not only to current crises but also to artists’ inward journeys. Many of the pieces explore the importance of human bonds such as Yifat Gat’s digital drawing *Papa*, which speaks to closeness with a father who sits in the lap of his own mother while other works entertain metamorphosis, such as a.muse’s use of bright otherworldly colors in *Union* and *Blue*, photographs of butterflies. The symbolism of a butterfly is of transformation: a caterpillar lives inside a cocoon for days to weeks, a kind of quarantine experience in the natural world. The zeitgeist of freedom and beauty also prevails and is exemplified in Julia G.’s art film *Siblings*, a look at growing up in a large creative family off the grid and imaginative.

For French photographer JM Voge creating works in lockdown allowed him a sort of freedom to transcend not only time and place but also in a larger context the ability to leave the physical world behind. *Untitled* is a superimposed reality, a colorful abstract negative, an x-ray, reflecting back lost time. Maria Katzman’s work is deceptively architectural - her paintings of a cabin have a timeless quality and communicate a feeling of serenity, like a prayer, maybe gratitude? Roberta Fineberg explores her surroundings of New York City in three video pieces, *Cloud*, *We Walk*, and *You Will Never Beat New York*, in which she focuses on daily life while quarantining. She explores the natural world and draws attention to springtime and the heavenly clouds in one work. In the video *We Walk* we hear birds singing, the sound of light traffic, and passersby voices. Her short film *You Will Never Beat New York* she focuses on the essential workers in New York and the collective cheering that takes place in the city to support them. Leonard Freed’s photographs *Muscle Boy*, *Arrested*, and *MLK* from the civil rights movement (1960s-1970s) mirrors back the current US social justice movement “Black Lives Matter.” Freed’s work from the period captures powerful moments and we take note of them in the long struggle to correct presently ongoing systemic injustices.

Cesare De Bus's painting *Train Station (Lost Sheep)* explodes with color and is packed with symbolic elements, the work reminiscent of a dream state begs to be interpreted. Yukari Edamitsu's "*Yellow Cloud,*" "*Spring Field,*" and "*Red Lightning,*" are 3 bold abstract paintings depicting the artist's inner landscape, the works colorful shapes express rawness, emotion, and energy. Tomo Mori responds to an ongoing pandemic by making two paint and fabric collages, referencing digital pixels, *Dreamer 1* and *Dreamer 2*. Her work addresses fear of an uncertain future, thoughts of time travel to a place of human warmth, light, kindness, and hope. Marek Szczesny's "*Homage to Samuel Beckett*" an abstract mark making painting as topography may be a reflection on navigating unknown territory – after all might we all collectively be 'waiting for Godot'?

--99Prints

Cadaf Online 2020 Art Fair Info: <https://bit.ly/2Z4crPU>

99Prints Booth address: <https://softspot.art/cadaf/cadaf-online-2020/99prints1/2~2>

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