

ALLOUCHE GALLERY

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LOS ANGELES

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MASTERS OF THE WILDERNESS

Matija Bobicic

September 15 - October 18 2022

Opening reception, Thursday September 15th, 6-9 pm



Allouche Gallery Los Angeles is proud to present Matija Bobicic's debut solo exhibition, **MASTERS OF THE WILDERNESS** , on Thursday, September 15th from 6-9pm.

Born 1987 in Maribor, Slovenia, Bobicic had his first solo exhibition in 2013 at the Salon Rotovž in Maribor. His most recent solo show in the US, "Middle Aged Mutants" at Breach Miami, will be followed by his first solo show with Allouche Gallery Los Angeles.

Discussing the title, Bobicic explains it closely resembles "He Man And the Masters of the Universe." Bobicic states, "Action figures and 80s and 90s cartoons are the basis of my creative process, and the characters I paint are strongly inspired by the toys I had and the cartoons I watched back in the 90s. Regarding the paintings in the show I have decided to depict wild animals which are mostly endangered (tigers, gorillas, sharks and even some insects). They are depicted as superheroes who are ready to reclaim back their natural habitats that were taken from them by humans and become masters of the wilderness once again."

These works, gathered in one place, are all the various versions of characters, figures, and subjects of the artist's previous series. The characters emerge via three points of departure. First, they are the Frankenstein's monster or the cyborg, archetypes in the genres of science fiction and horror.

The second point of departure is the context of the early 1990s, a formative time for the artist, both personally and artistically. The third is the present, in which we're forced to rethink many of our habits, once taken for granted. Bobicic's painting style is rooted in his childhood. Following an early period of his career, making use of a mostly abstract visual language with echoes of late modernism and neo-expressionist figuration – Jean Dubuffet, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Francis Bacon were among his influences.

In recent years we can observe a significant transformation in the artist's approach. With a return to scenes from his youth, he is also reminded of his early creative endeavors as a child. It was then that he first began expressing himself visually by drawing cartoon characters off the television screen. Today, Bobicic's paintings are imbued with childlike curiosity, the figures are flat, outlined with a prominent contour, and the surface is composed of bright, often contrasting, fields of color.

The characters give the impression of being enormous, regardless of the size of the canvas. Positioned firmly in a wide stance, Bobicic's gigantic cyborgs and monsters are like modern-day Colossi, creatures of our time and for our time.



For more information on the artists or gallery please visit www.allouchegallery.com or email losangeles@allouchegallery.com