



Cortesi Gallery

PRESS RELEASE

Serena Maisto. Beyond Borders

With a critical text by Ilaria Bignotti

March 21– June 28, 2019

Opening: Wednesday, March 21, 2019, 6 pm – 8:30 pm

Cortesi Gallery is happy to present Serena Maisto. Beyond Borders, a solo show dedicated to the latest pictorial cycle of the artist from Lugano.

The Gallery showcases about twenty large- and medium-size works, including works on canvas, paper and plexiglass, which convey Maisto's artistic research. Starting from her personal reflections on the historical importance of Action Painting in the US, Maisto develops an artistic idiom that is full of European tension. In her research, abstraction rests on fewer colours (charcoal grey, burgundy, yellow, light blue) and gives life to organic forms that invade the visual field and chase after one another up to the canvas frame, in a pictorial skin to skin in which intense and yet measured visual power prevails. The name of the show – “Beyond Borders” – reveals aspiration to do more than just showcasing a cycle of works that position themselves “beyond the borders of the previous cycle – because no artistic research can disregard previous researches, but it should instead be capable of forgetting the previous stage and looking to the present one – as well as beyond the visual borders of painting,” as Ilaria Bignotti wrote in her critical text for the catalogue.

Also because of this, Beyond Borders is a crucial stage in Serena Maisto's conceptual and linguistic research. Whereas her canvases tell us about the constant gap between the control and liberation of the artist's pictorial gesture, in her works on plexiglass the border between the immediacy of the gesture and the pursuit of formal perfection are advanced to a higher level, also thanks to the relationship with the wall and the shadows that light casts on it when it hits the texture of the painting.

The solo show at the Gallery will be followed by the opening of Nel Fiore e nella Pietra (In the Flower and in the Stone) on April 6. The project will be a site-specific exhibition in which seven pictorial works by Serena Maisto will converse with Mario Botta's visionary building, which he designed to open the new season of Monte Generoso and its railway.



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The Artist

Serena Maisto

Born in 1982, she lives and works in Lugano.

Selected Solo Shows

2019

April 6–June 30

Nel Fiore e nella Pietra (In the Flower and in the Stone), on the occasion of the opening of « Stone Flower » by Mario Botta, Monte Generoso, CH

March 21 – May 21

Beyond Borders, Cortesi Gallery, with a text by Ilaria Bignotti, Lugano, CH

2017–2018

Dec. 2017–Feb. 2018

Basquiat & I: Into the Present, Cortesi Gallery, London, UK

2017

May 15–July 21

Time Line. My Walk with Basquiat, Cortesi Gallery, Lugano, CH

2015

December 21–31

40 Steps Collection, Conza Pavilion, Lugano, CH

Works in Public and Private Collections

Crossinvest, Lugano, CH

Raiffeisen Bank, Cadro, CH

UBP, Lugano, CH

Wallpepper collection, Milan, IT