

EDUARDO SECCI

Press Release

“Upon a time”

Curated by **Edoardo Monti**

Bea Bonafini, Daria Dmytrenko, Carla Giaccio Darias, Sahara Longe e Sophie Spedding.

Dates | January 29 – March 12, 2022

Opening | Saturday, January 29, 2022, 4.00 – 8.00 pm

Hours | Monday – Saturday, 10.00 - 1.30 pm / 2.30 - 7.00 pm

Eduardo Secci gallery is pleased to announce the opening of the group show “**Upon a Time**” curated by **Edoardo Monti** and featuring works by **Bea Bonafini, Carla Giaccio Darias, Daria Dmytrenko, Sahara Longe, Sophie Spedding**. The exhibition, inaugurating on **Saturday, January 29** (4.00 pm – 8.00 pm) in Florence (Piazza Carlo Goldoni 2, Italy), will be on view until **March 12**.

“Upon a time tells one and a thousand stories, populated by characters who leap from one painting to another, from a tapestry to a sculpture. Heroines, monsters and mythical animals, magical figures protagonist of a story that never happened” writes Edoardo Monti in his introductory text.

The five artists not only share the common experience of the artistic residency in Palazzo Monti but also a vast imaginary capable of giving life to dreamlike atmospheres, almost fairy at times. Yet, are not all fables those told within "Upon a Time", like the portraits of **Sahara Longe** (1994), where settings and subjects – familiar at first glance - correspond to a dry composition in which the silhouettes of new protagonists capable of overturning an entirely Western history of art. Thus the works of **Sophie Spedding** (1995), giving space to corporeality and its manifestations in an intrusively sincere way, seem to use another reality to explore the persistence of mental representations. Through a painting with intense tones, **Daria Dmytrenko** (1993) explores the psychological dimension of the individual pausing in the limbo between dream and reality; a field of research similar to that of **Carla Giaccio Darias** (1998), whose works investigate the processes of memory activation through the recollection of images. The practice of **Bea Bonafini** (1990), on the other hand, recalls mythology and popular history in an intertwining of hybrid figures that blend with each other, creating collages of shapes with delicate colors, nevertheless capable of effectively transmitting the tenor of the representation.

In this way, "Upon Time" is presented as an overturned world, a delicate irony aimed at gently bringing the visitor closer to an apparently enchanted world capable of revealing intimate narratives, collective reflections and spaces for psychological investigation.

Edoardo Monti is the founder of Palazzo Monti in Brescia and curator.

Bea Bonafini (1990, Bonn, Germany) lives and works in London. She studied at the Royal College of Art and the Slade School of Fine Art in London. The multidisciplinary research of the Italian artist draws from oneiric visions, superimposing personal and ancient mythologies. Her practice explores the possibilities and interplay of painting, tapestry and sculpture. In close dialogue with architecture, where the works expand into space to envelop the viewer, holistic perspectives develop. Acting as protected spheres, her installations act as openings onto encounters

Piazza Carlo Goldoni 2
50123 Firenze

Via Bernardino Zenale 3
20123 Milano

+39 055 661356
firenze@eduardosecci.com

+39 02 38248 728
milano@eduardosecci.com

eduardosecci.com

EDUARDO SECCI

between the earthly and the otherworldly. Her works have been exhibited at the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Guarene (2020); Mana Contemporary, New Jersey (2020); Villa La Berlugane, Beaulieu-sur-Mer (2020); Operativa, Rome (2020); British School at Rome, Rome (2020, 2019); Chloé Salgado, Paris (2019); Bosse & Baum, London (2019); MAC - Museum of Contemporary Art, Lissone (2018); Renata Fabbri, Milan (2018); Zabłudowicz Collection, London (2017).

Daria Dmytrenko (1993, Dnipropetrovsk, Ucraina) lives and works in Venice. After her first artistic education in Dnipropetrovsk, she attended painting courses at the National Academy of Visual Arts and Architecture in Kyiv (2012-15). She is currently proceeding her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. Through painting, the artist explores the visual expression of the subconscious, using intuitive impulses as a tool aimed at bringing up the deepest memories to transform them into composition. Among the shows in which her works have been exhibited: *Degree Show II*, Palazzo Monti (Brescia, 2021); *Extraordinario*, Vulcano agency VEGA (Venice, 2020); *103ma Collettiva Giovani Artisti*, Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Piazza San Marco Gallery (Venice, 2020); *Spin Off*, Calle Lunga Santa Caterina (Venice, 2019); *Speculum mundi*, Davide Gallo (Milan, 2018).

Carla Giaccio Darias (1998, Rome) lives and works between Milan, Rome and Havana. The artist's research regards painting and sculpture as a meeting of forces, capable of memories that are not only linked to the individual. The interest flows into the energy dynamics that each individual, object and nature possesses in itself. The desire for this type of reasoning is not in view of an analysis of reality, it is rather aimed at identifying the ways in which these flows, that exist a priori, become visible and sensitive to us. Her works have been exhibited in a number of exhibitions, among these: ReA! Art Fair, Fabbrica del Vapore (Milan, 2021); *Degree Show II*, Palazzo Monti (Brescia, 2021); *Meeting #21 Erase to Make a Mark*, Adolfo Pini Foundation (Milan, 2019); *Women under the sky*, Associazione Apriti Cielo (Milan, 2019); Fax Factory (Rome, 2017).

Sahara Longe (1994, London) lives and works in London. She studied at the Charles H. Cecil Stios where she graduated in 2019. Longe re-examines the visual hierarchies and traditions of the History of Art within the reinterpretation of traditional paintings. Brightly colored and often oversized, Longe's paintings are deliberately flattened and soft-edged. Sahara Longe has been the protagonist of several international exhibitions including: *Young Art3st Partnership Show* (London, 2021); *Heart of the Matter*, Gillian Jason Gallery, (Norwich, 2021); *Get a Load of This!*, Daniel Raphael Gallery (London, 2021); *The Great Women Artists III*, a cura di Katy Hessel, Palazzo Monti (Brescia, 2021); Timothy Taylor, Summer Show (London, 2021); 1-54 Art Fair (London, 2021).

Sophie Spedding (1995, London) lives and works in London. They graduated in 2019 with their BA from The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL. Their practice draws from the use of intersections of systems to structure bodies of work. Fundamental structures are reliant on the duality of using contextual systems, and intrusively sincere visualizations. They are interested in this intersection that encompasses dismissal and abjection through the amount of care imposed on the border of subject and self. Their works featured in a number of exhibitions, among these: *Hétérotopie*, Bubble'n'Squeak (Brussels, 2020); *Transatlantico*, Mana Contemporary (NJ, 2020), Palazzo Monti Residency (Brescia, 2019).

Press Contacts

exhibitions@eduardosecci.com | +39 055 661356

The Knack Studio | tamara@theknackstudio.com | +39 347 0712934

Piazza Carlo Goldoni 2
50123 Firenze

+39 055 661356
firenze@eduardosecci.com

Via Bernardino Zenale 3
20123 Milano

+39 02 38248 728
milano@eduardosecci.com

eduardosecci.com