

GALLERIA POGGIALI

presents

Amy Bravo – *Congratulations Hero!!!*

18.01.2024 – 22.03.2024

Opening

Wednesday 18.01.2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Galleria Poggiali – Milan Foro Bonaparte 52 – 20121 Milan

Galleria Poggiali presents **Congratulations Hero!!!**, a solo show by the American artist Amy Bravo (b. 1997, New Jersey) which can be visited from 18 January 2024 in the Milan premises of the Galleria Poggiali in Foro Buonaparte 52, Milan.

Bravo's work is hallmarked by the capacity to explore the meshing of personal identity, family legacy and symbolism through a distinctive artistic technique that combines painting, drawing and the inclusion of heirlooms charged with emotional input.

For the first time in Italy, this show offers a deeper insight into the work of the artist. By deconstructing personal emotions linked to her own complex family background, Bravo pays out a guiding thread linking her to her Italian-Cuban origins. The works on display retrace her personal odyssey of resilience and deconstruction, made up of continuous attempts to bring together aspects of her own personality with a fragmented family history, offering the public impressions of typically human actions, weaknesses, and nuances.

The title of the show, **Congratulations Hero!!!**, is a play on the artist's surname 'Bravo', a term that has borne many different meanings over time: originally in Latin it signified brave and bold and was used in relation to heroes, but then in the Middle Ages it came to signify desperado or even to indicate a hired assassin. This same contradictory quality can be discerned in the female characters that inhabit Bravo's works: they are like avatars of themselves in a heroic, combative version, albeit with details that bely their apparently invincible nature.

Congratulations Hero!!! is also the title of the key work displayed in the show, in which a mythological female figure raises the boxing gloves in sign of victory. The work captures the moment after the fight, exploring the meaning of the victory in complex relations and the contrasting emotions it unleashes. A contemporary Nike who has won in the last round: proud, winged, and finally endowed with a crown, but also sweaty and bloodied from the blows given and received.

The display project explores the idea of 'victory' in a lost battle, probing the emotional consequences and the ensuing need for discussion and reconciliation: a concept that encompasses the artist's entire production. *Fomento Nike* and *Retablo a Carlos*, for instance, reveal her particular approach to exploring the confines of human experience through mythical symbolism, family archetypes, and queer iconography. Through a careful selection of symbolic materials and objects, Bravo has created

a personal parallel cosmos, inhabited by people who live in a dimension similar to a purgatory and by historically significant symbols such as the Black Rooster, the black lake and the saddle.

Like modern-day amazons, the figures that inhabit the show challenge patriarchal conventions, clashing with overbearing behaviour that is culturally and historically entrenched.

Bravo's previous show in Paris represented the struggle, whereas **Congratulations Hero!!!** presents a new chapter devoted to the victory. This is a sentiment that is too often clichéd but actually features an extreme complexity of emotions, ranging over the sense of ending, emptiness, sadness, bitterness and distance.

In the catalogue of the exhibition the artist explains how the gestation of these works is fuelled by grief, a catalyst that has recently driven her to explore the stories of her Italian family, bringing to light a new dimension of her hereditary legacy. This show embodies an important point in her personal and artistic career: by revealing her personal emotional baggage to the public, Amy Bravo offers broader insight into the dynamics characterising family systems, revealing deep connections between the personal and the political.

Date: 18 January 2024

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Galleria Poggiali, Foro Buonaparte 52, Milan

For further information on the show and the artist, please contact Galleria Poggiali Milano
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