

The Cave: Unveiling Illusions

EXO gallery
at NADA East Broadway, NY





The Cave: Unveiling Illusions Group Exhibition

Dec. 19, 2023 – Jan. 03, 2024

NADA East Broadway, NY

Welcome to "The Cave: Unveiling Illusions," an immersive art exhibition that delves into the profound concepts presented in Plato's philosophical allegory, "The Cave". Inspired by Plato's essay, this captivating exhibition invites us to question the nature of reality, perception, and the pursuit of truth.

As one step into this thought-provoking space, it is easy to find yourself transported into a realm that challenges the boundaries of perception. Just as Plato's prisoners were confined to a dark cave, where they perceived only shadows flickering on the walls, our exhibition explores the notion of enlightenment and the liberation of the mind.

Each artist in their idiosyncratic artistic language explores the idea of the perceived versus the reality. Each artwork on display aims to evoke introspection and invites one to question the shadows that may govern one own existence.

As the viewers navigate through the exhibition, they will encounter a diverse range of artistic mediums, including photography, paintings, interactive paintings, linocut prints, and digital animation, which serve as a catalyst for self-reflection, encouraging us to venture beyond our pre-conceived notions and confront the illusions that might be shaping our worldview.



Udo Spreitzenbarth in his black-and-white photographs unveils the shadows nearly as the main protagonists of the photo. In both Mischa Barton's portraits the interplay of light and shadow, brightness and darkness, emphasize ambiguity, dramatize the scene, and create tension. His protagonist is alienated and finds herself trapped in unwanted, but never hopeless situations, just as the prisoners in Plato's Cave.

Carmen Belean appeals to our sense of mystery, as in her work Pan/Faunus, where the ancient deity of fertility, nature, and wildness is barely visible surrounded by leafy greens. Portraying minute details, Belean employs the arresting property of the trompe l'oil to capture our attention, in a painterly exchange between the mimetic and the abstract. Her series of small-scale paintings allude to a sense of longing for an idyllic vision of unspoiled wilderness in which one feels safe, protected, and entirely submerged in nature.

In comparison, Ivo Nikic plays with the cave allegory in his interactive works, where viewers are invited to actively engage in creating new realities. His magnetic patches can be easily rearranged on the metallic canvases to create seemingly new artworks. In his still work, on the other hand, the AirPods become beacons of the message being said and received, just as the fire in the cave of Plato's allegory, is the source of all misconception.

Finally, Kinga Su in her animation and linocuts revolves around the perception of reality and opinion about the society and environment, especially in a polarized world and the post-truth era. Diving into provocative and divisive subjects, the artist skillfully unravels the complex tapestry of human thought. Through their exploration, they reveal the intricate nuances that defy simplistic categorization, challenging the very notion of clear-cut answers to perplexing questions.

Using the traditional linocut technique with a specially designed dot-cutter, allows the artist to act subtly and balance at the border between light and darkness, essentially extracting brightness from shadows. The multitude of small white elements builds a unified image creating quite abstract works and leaving plenty of room for interpretation.

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"The Cave: Unveiling Illusions" not only offers a captivating visual experience but also provides an opportunity for dialogue and contemplation. It is a journey of enlightenment that opens our minds to the possibility of a reality beyond the shadows. The show invites you to question, ponder, and discover the transformative power of art in illuminating the hidden truths and embracing the unknown.



Artists



Carmen Belean

Belean is known for her realistic, multi-faceted paintings that are inspired by nature and themes of femininity and beauty.

By drawing on a (neo-)expressionist discourse of painting, combined with a feminist dialogue and the relationship between nature, art, and beauty, her works contribute to a broader concept of female perception and identity.

The Romanian artist contributed to the Golden Globe winner and Oscar-nominated animated movie 'Loving Vincent'.

Belean received her doctorate in fine art from the Academy of Fine Art in Cluj-Napoca (Romania).



Kinga Su

Kinga Su is a multi-faceted multidisciplinary Polish artist living in Strasbourg, France. Within the vast tapestry of her creative expressions, animation emerges as the primary conduit through which she breathes life into images. Yet, her artistic yearning extends beyond the digital canvas; she ardently embraces the tactile dance with materials, through traditional graphic techniques such as linocut, drypoint, and woodcut.

Su's recent animated masterpiece, 'The One,' ascended to acclaim at the prestigious International Digital Art Contest in Torun, Poland.

Su graduated from French studies at the University of Warsaw and Graphic Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland. She currently studies Graphic Communication at Haute École des Arts du Rhin in Strasbourg, France.



Artists

Udo Spreitzenbarth



Spreitzenbarth, a German-born artist who resides and works in New York, is an international fashion, beauty, and art photographer. After his first year in New York City, he shot his first billboard campaign that landed on a screen in Times Square.

His editorial photography has been featured in international issues of *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, *Cosmopolitan*, and more. His art photography has received international acclaim with a successful series of solo exhibitions in New York, Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Shanghai, and Beijing.

Ivo Nikić



Ivo Nikić (born in 1974 in Pristina, now Kosovo), is a Polish-Kosovan multidisciplinary artist; his work includes painting, photography, installations, objects, video, and actions in urban space. Ivo plays with connotations and undertone, dismantles the world into basic elements, questions ready-made solutions, and re-evaluates categories of beauty and ugliness.

In 2003 he graduated in painting at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, PL in the studio of Prof. Jaroslaw Modzelewski. Since then, he's been an active prolific artist. In 2006 he was an Artist-In-Residence fellow in Bern, Switzerland.



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Events

Dec 19, 2023 from 6 pm

Opening Reception, artists are present

Dec 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Panel Discussion

Reality vs Illusion. The role of art as an opinion-maker.

Jan 02, 2024, midday - 7 pm

Finissage



Promotional Partners

Goethe Institute New York

<https://www.goethe.de>

Polish Cultural Institute New York

<https://instytutpolski.pl/newyork/>

Romanian Cultural Institute

<https://www.rciusa.info/>



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Udo Spreitzenbarth
If the Soul Had Wings
(Mischa Barton)

2009
Fine art on recycled aluminum
30 x 45 in
Edition of 7



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Udo Spreitzenbarth
Silent Scream
(*Mischa Barton*)

2009
Fine Art on recycled aluminum
60 x 40 in
Edition of 3

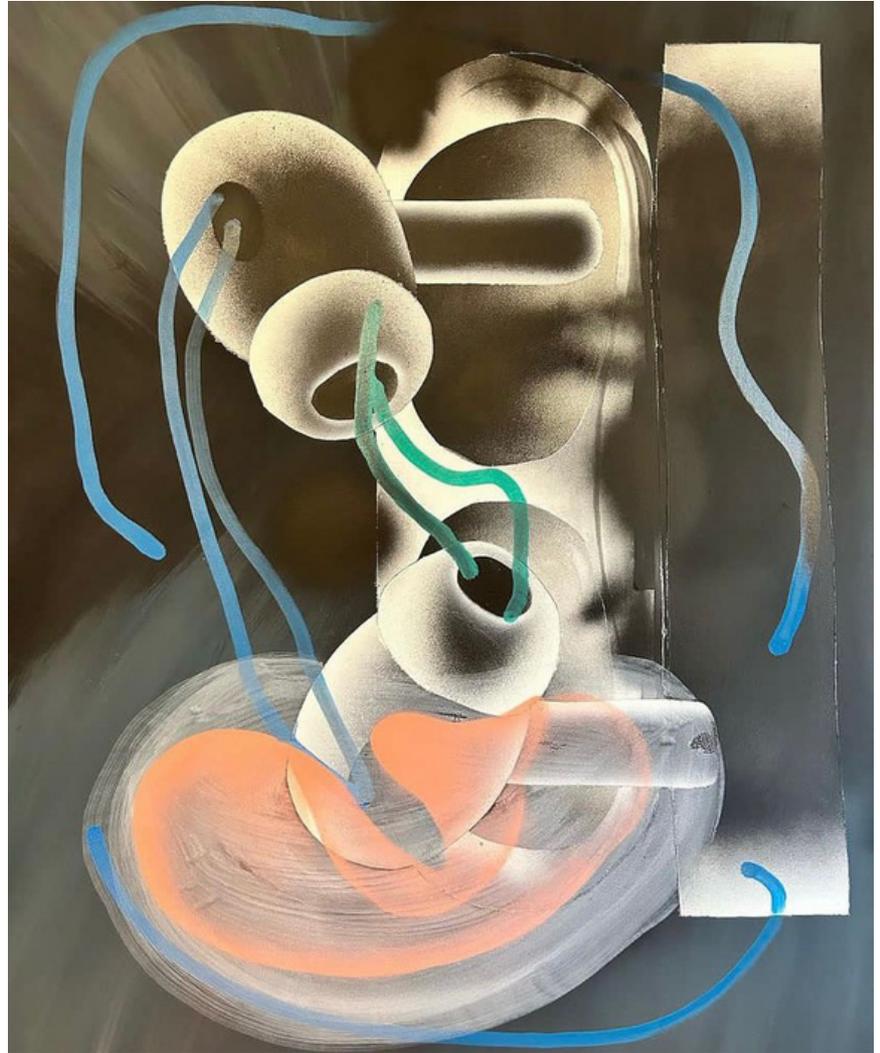


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Ivo Nikić
Talk to me, listen to me

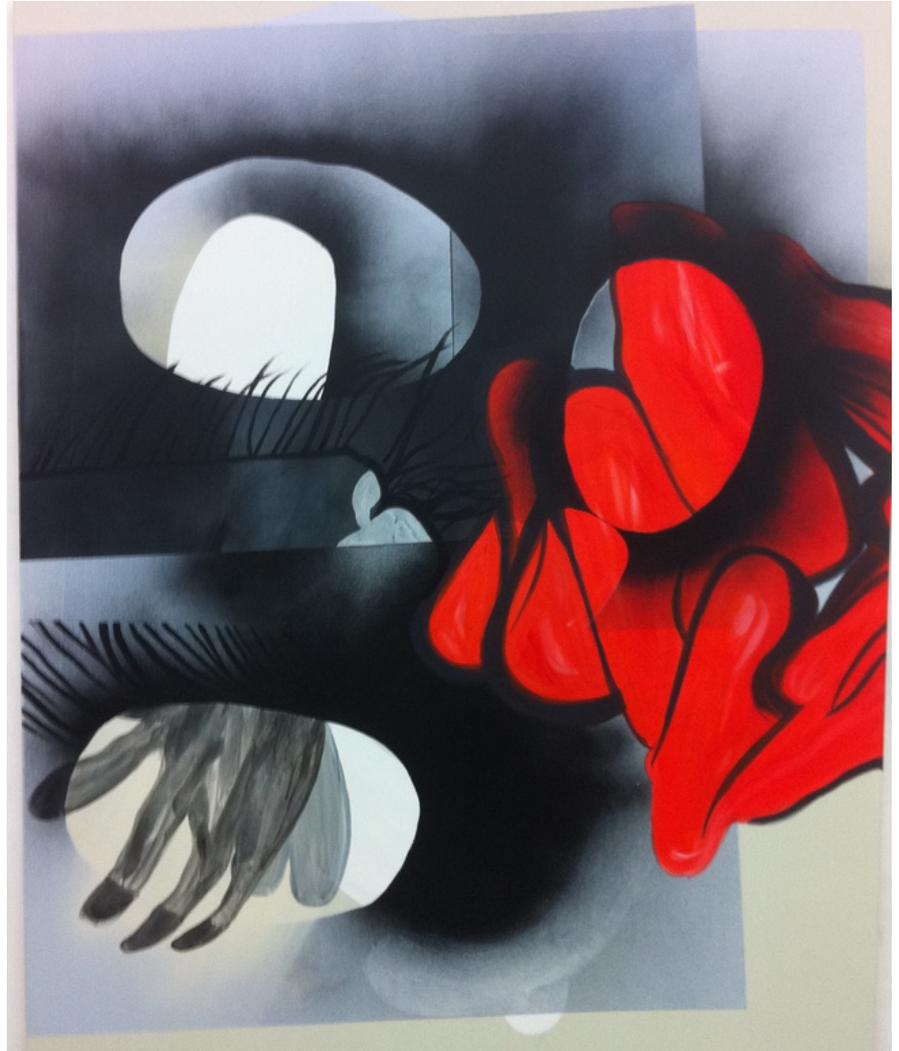
2023
Acrylic on canvas
47.2 x 39.4 in
120 x 100 cm

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Ivo Nikić
Squeeze the D

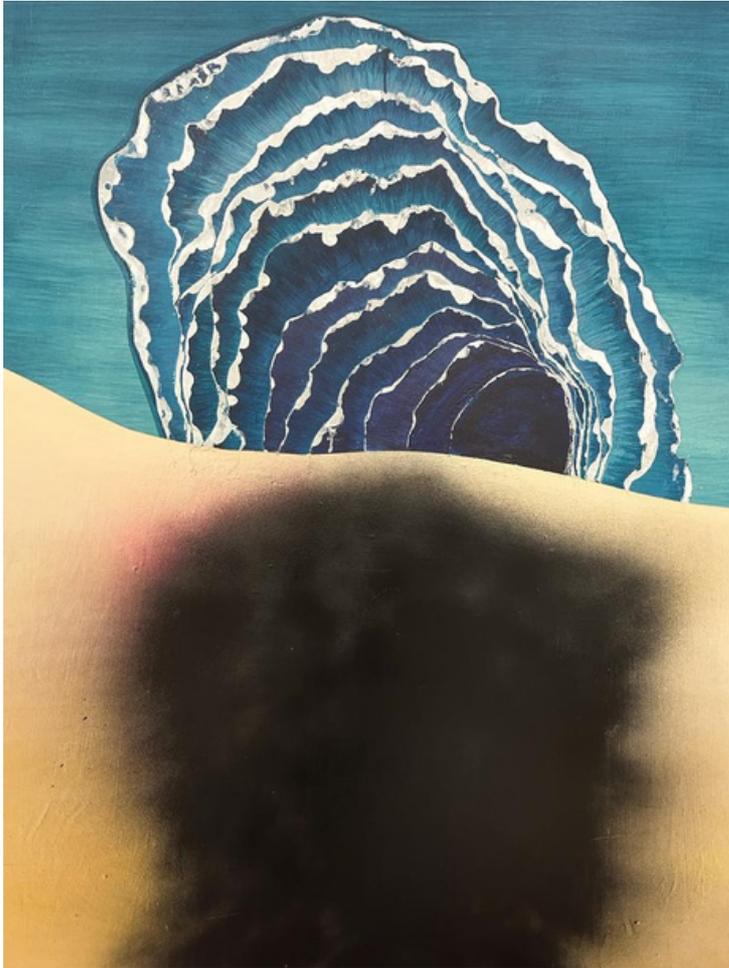
Acrylic on canvas
2013
59.1 x 47.2 in
150 x 120 cm

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Ivo Nikić
Cave into

2012-2023

Interactive Painting: acrylic on canvas, magnetic removable patches

59 x 47 in

150 x 120 cm

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Ivo Nikić
Incubator

2020-2023

Interactive Painting: acrylic on canvas, magnetic removable patches

59 x 47 in

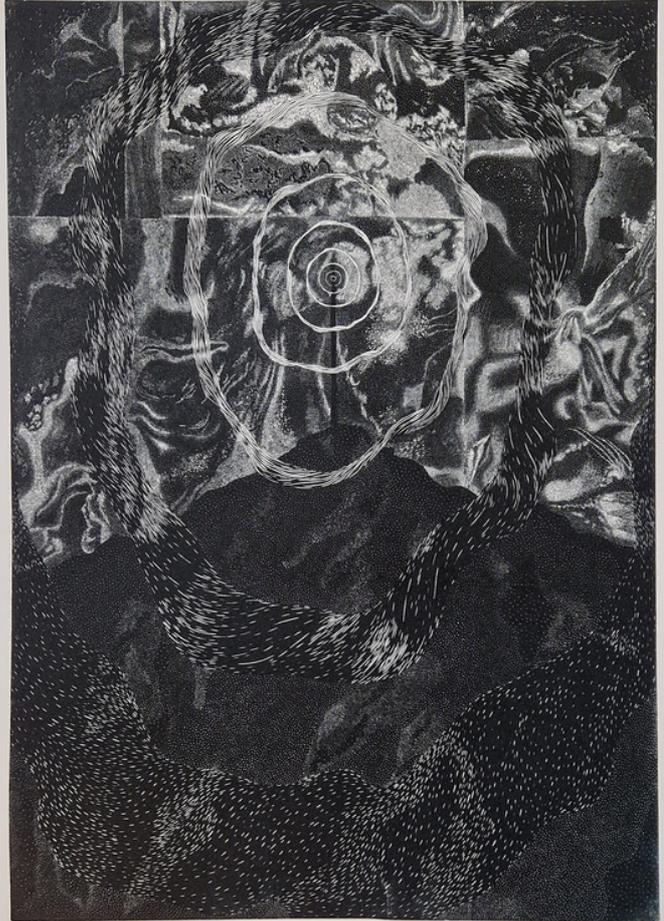
150 x 120 cm

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Kinga Su
Diffusion

2023

Linocut Print on Cotton Rag Paper Fabriano Artistico

34.5 x 25.6 in

Edition 1 of 10

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Carmen Belean
Pan

2018-2022
Oil on board in velvet framing mounted on wood
17.1 x 14.9 in



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Carmen Belean

Blue Shadow of a Dark Moon

2023

Oil on board in velvet framing mounted on wood

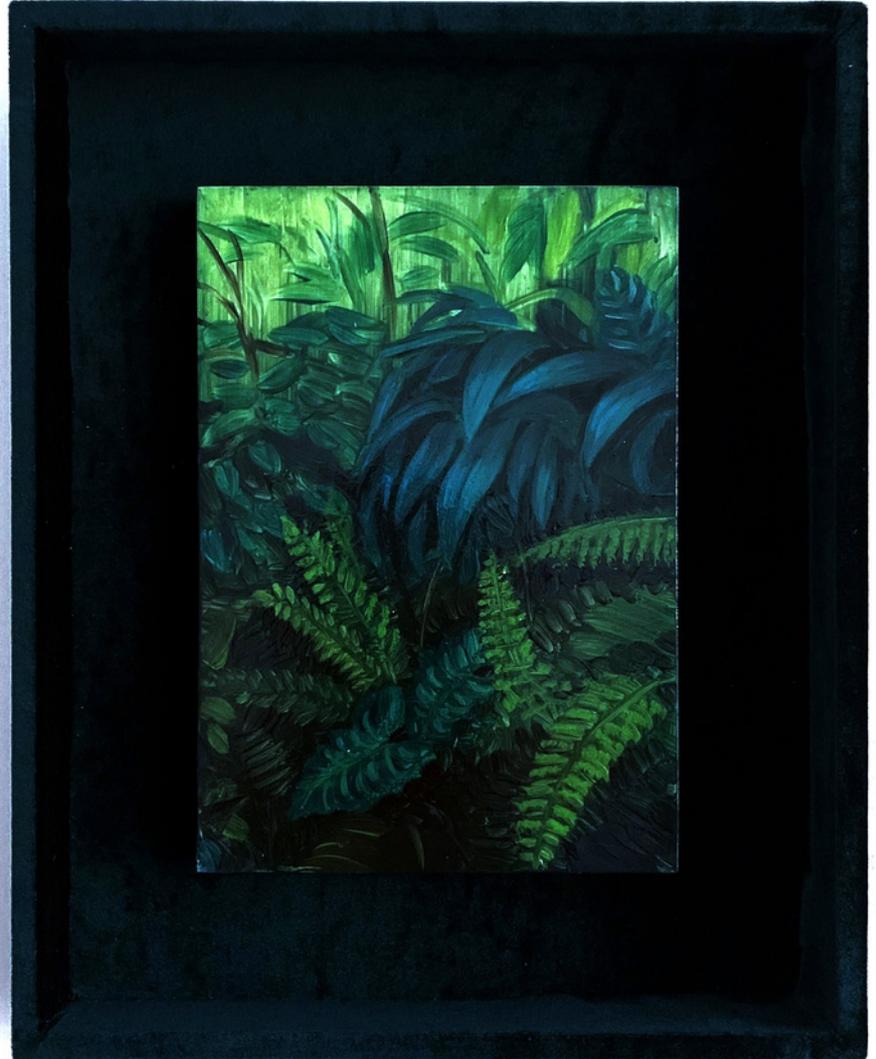
14.2 x 11 in

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Carmen Belean
Arcadia

2023

Oil on board in velvet framing mounted on wood

14.2 x 11 in



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Carmen Belean
Untitled

2023
Oil on board in velvet framing mounted on wood
14.2 x 11 in