



Over the Influence Presents

Ben Arpéa

A Short Travel Story

17 April to 29 May 2022



Anchored in a dreamlike dimension oscillating between semi-figurative and abstract expressionism, Ben Arpéa's work questions the century-old motifs and canons of classical landscape and still life, reinterpreted through a contemporary artistic language. This is the artist's debut exhibition with Over The Influence and *A Short Travel Story* will be on view at the Los Angeles gallery space from 17 April to 29 May 2022.

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In the continuation of a series developed during the 2020 global pandemic, and created during a reflective period inspired by the search for beauty, the new works presented at OTI LA exude an elegant simplicity centred upon the immediacy of objects and sensations—it is a sublimation of the everyday actions of daily life. The paintings call forth similarities to pioneering contemporary artists such as Tom Wesselman, David Hockney, Jonas Wood, and Andre Breton, artists with whom Ben Arpéa sees as artistic mentors and influences. The landscapes within his paintings speak to everyone, while distancing themselves from the subject matter in a curious state of engagement and alienation. Between the real and the unreal, the artist creates perfect images that are frozen within their compositions, a subtle analysis of stillness and movement that alludes to pop art aesthetics and surrealism.

Distancing himself from any analytical approach, Ben Arpéa creates simple forms, to invite everyone to a dreamlike and personal journey. He welcomes viewers to enter into synaesthesia with his paintings, each one being invited to project their memories onto compositions that are intimate and familiar dialogues within their own psyche.

Artist Bio

Ben Arpéa is a French-Italian artist who lives and works in Paris. Born into a family of art lovers and collectors, Ben Arpéa has been immersed in a rich artistic universe since childhood, where he began to create, draw and paint.

Ben Arpéa gained recognition in 2020 with a series of paintings in which he developed a singular artistic language made of geometric abstraction evolving towards the semi-figurative, using flat areas of color and texture. He pays homage to the figures of modern and contemporary art that he admires - Tom Wesselmann, David Hockney, Jonas Wood, André Breton - and is fully part of a new generation of creators from art, design and fashion, celebrating color and material in a simple and immediate relationship to the air of time.

In a play on materials emblematic of his work, Ben Arpéa develops his creative process on jute or linen canvas, which he treats and stretches himself, before deploying his pictorial language on a large scale, the minimalism of the motifs confronting the large format of the canvas. Beyond their pictorial immediacy, Ben Arpéa's works are imbued with mystery: from minimal geometric forms, the artist lets us glimpse the trace of a human passage, and shows moments inhabited by the man who has now disappeared, suggested but never present.

Location

Over the Influence LA
833 East 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Press Contact

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