



Over the Influence Los Angeles presents

Brian Robertson
Patterns & Threads

2 December 2023 – 18 February 2024



Brian Robertson, *Yelling Man*, 2023

Over the Influence is thrilled to present *Patterns & Threads*, an exhibition of new paintings by Los Angeles artist Brian Robertson.

Emerging from a common fabric, anonymous figures materialize and recede into the intricate tapestry of their surroundings. Geometric fragments converge, melding seamlessly to assume a collective identity, adorned with both form and name. Some figures exude a sense of levity, others gravitas, while a select few seem to invite the viewer to discern and share in their emotional state.

This new body of work is a departure marked by a shift in style, color, composition, scale, and technique—yet it is an evolution that remains anchored to enduring thematic undercurrents. At its core, Robertson's oeuvre probes the intricacies of human identity, the extent of our agency in shaping our existence, and the perpetual quest for metamorphosis.

The conceptual bedrock of pattern, constraint, and potentiality becomes paramount in this exploration. Having previously worked with textiles, Robertson becomes fascinated with the notion of transposing the intricate designs found in fabrics onto the canvas, solely through the medium of paint.

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The act of replicating pseudo-versions of the fabrics that envelop and articulate human identity in an alternative medium becomes a poignant metaphor for the complex and labyrinthine nature of the human mind. Beginning with an intuitive drawing devoid of external references, the artist sketches rudimentary, cartoonish figures and objects until an evocative expression, posture, or fusion of forms strikes a resonant chord. Subsequently, a meticulous deconstruction of the initial form unfolds, delving into the limitless permutations of geometry contained therein. Through an exhaustive yet purposeful process, a harmonious order emerges within each figure, and the process of constructing the painting can begin.

The crux of this artistic pursuit lies in the challenge to perception—both that of the artist and the viewer. The artist confronts self-imposed challenges by redefining the parameters of materials and stylistic expression. Simultaneously, the viewer is invited to discern the authentic from the mimetic, navigating the intricate interplay of originality and replication. This body of work serves as a testament to the artist's continual quest for self-discovery and the creation of objects that, in turn, enlighten or intrigue the observer.

Patterns & Threads will be on view from December 2, 2023 – February 18, 2024

Over The Influence

OTI was founded in Hong Kong in 2015 and expanded to Los Angeles in 2018, followed by Bangkok in 2022. The gallery has established itself in Europe with its first space in the 8th arrondissement of Paris, inaugurated in July 2022. Over The Influence is dedicated to championing artists who challenge traditional approaches to studio practice, presenting a dynamic program that explores the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, design, music, fashion, and other forms of visual expression. The gallery represents an international roster of emerging and established artists working in various mediums and disciplines.

Opening reception

2 December 2023 | 6 - 9PM

Exhibition Dates

2 December 2023 – 18 February 2024

Address

833 E. 3rd Street
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