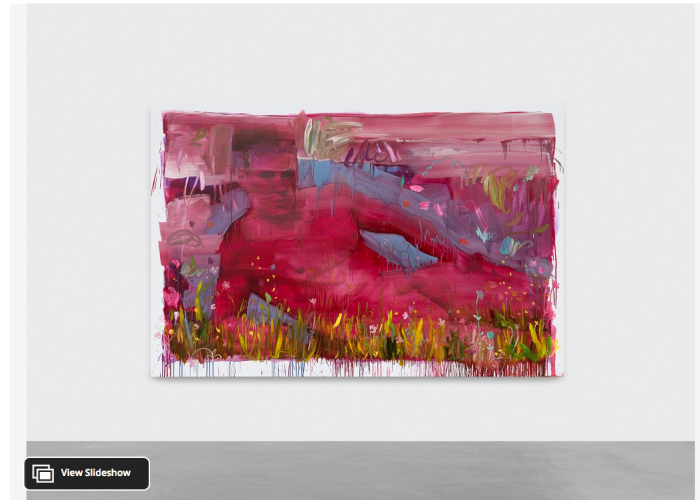


Ida Tursic & Wilfried Mille's 'Are Men Unicorns?' at Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | NOVEMBER 13, 2018



"Male nude and yellow flowers," 2018 Ida Tursic & Wilfried Mille Oil on canvas 200 x 300 x 5 cm 78 3/4 x 118 1/8 x 2 inches
(© Ida Tursic & Wilfried Mille - Courtesy of the Artist and Almine Rech Gallery - Photo: Hugard & Vanoverschelde Photography)

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Almine Rech Gallery is hosting a new exhibition by [Ida Tursic & Wilfried Mille](#) titled "Are Men Unicorns?"

On view through December 21, 2018, the show marks the duo's fourth one at the gallery and second in Brussels.

Collaborating since 2000, Tursic & Mille are known to create photographic images and technological, social, and political disruptions that occur at a constant pace. As the gallery writes, "From the very beginning, they have deliberately sought to simultaneously embrace and critically understand what place their primary medium of painting can occupy in such circumstances, wielding it like a weapon to place an ancient and versatile pictorial technology at the forefront of a dynamic practice."

According to the gallery, much less has been written about the wide range of painterly techniques Tursic & Mille use in their artworks. These distinctive techniques used remain current and relevant to contemporary culture and yet at the same time also reflect the grand historical narrative of the Western painting.

"Tursic & Mille have assigned themselves the task of creating artworks that both have staying power and are also "new and interesting," to paraphrase a long-ago recurring feature in now-defunct French magazine *Actuel*," writes the gallery. They handle the medium in a whimsical, humorous way which is although being ambitious are never arrogant or intimidating. "With light touches, Tursic & Mille deflect the apparent magnitude of their aspiration, deftly mixing actual painterly touch-ups with the inclusion of offbeat figures," describes the gallery.

The paintings are figurative in subject but abstract in treatment. The pastoral landscapes are somehow merged with quasi-photographic techniques in the background where there is a contrasting effect between a monochromatic grey scenery and colorful brushstrokes that are applied as covering on top of base layers. "The relation between obfuscation and unveiling resounds throughout the exhibition, where in addition to the images described above a character is covered in translucent washes that fail to hide his naked body, while elsewhere broad and thick swathes of brightly-colored paint swatches make illusory attempts to blot out nude figures," writes the gallery.

Similarly, the experimentation with the ambiguous shift between 2D and 3D images show the relationship between the covered and uncovered aspects of the painting. These works are a mix of oil paint and sculpture and an old school jigsaw that creates something that is referred to as "shaped paintings." As the gallery states, "They are designed to be seen frontally, like a painting, the back of the silhouette left blank and unfinished yet visible to a viewer wanting to turn around."

This exhibition is on view from October 25 through December 21, 2018 at Almine Rech Gallery, Abdijstraat 20 Rue de l'Abbaye, 1050 Brussels BE.

For details please visit: <https://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/750238/302916/home-overview>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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Founder: [Louise Blouin](#)