



PLACE HOLDER
LEONARDO MEONI

313 Bowery, 10003 NY
09.29.2022 – 10.30.2022
Opening September 29, 6 – 8 PM

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313 Bowery, 10003 NY
29 September, 2022 – 30 October, 2022
Opening: September 29, 2022, 6 – 8 PM

[New York, NY] - Amanita is pleased to present *Place Holder*, Leonardo Meoni's first solo exhibition in New York and his second solo exhibition with the gallery. Leonardo Meoni (b.1994, Florence) studied at the institute of Art in Siena, the Accademia di Belle Arti of Florence, and Accademia di Belle Arti of Brera and has participated in various solo and group exhibitions and projects in Europe, Asia, and South America.

The works in the exhibition are all on velvet. The marked surfaces result not from any kind of additive or subtractive process, but from something in between. This liminal state, in which pigment is not added nor are the fibers of the velvet removed, represents a mode of mark-making that is as immediate as it is indirect. Through this technique, Meoni has devised a refreshing approach to image-making that is the result of active, performative gestures of rubbing, brushing, pressing, and imprinting forms into the responsive velvet surface. Leo uses his fingers, unloaded paint brushes, gardening equipment, cooking utensils and construction tools to create impressions in the medium.

Meoni moves about the surface, manipulating the hairs of the velvet to shape his composite forms. Motion becomes the mark. The artist's physical movement, in turn, is then reciprocated by the viewer. To get a complete sense of an individual work, the viewer must walk around the velvet. Embedded within the works are multiple compositions, each one illuminated by differing perspectives.

Previously drawn forms interweave through ones rendered above. Marks are never fully erased. The scarred velvet serves as witness to the marks that support and build the composition. The process of removal and erasure becomes complicated – mistakes can't be fixed and past forms become pronounced. The artist's process becomes well documented as no blemish can be fully concealed.

Meoni's meditations on erasure and removal extend beyond the medium itself. The content of the works concerns a range of statues and artifacts that have been willfully destroyed or damaged in an attempt to rid the objects of their symbolic function. Meoni repeats large, obscured images of a Hatrene statue of King Uthal that was destroyed during a 2015 ISIS raid of The Mosul Museum in in Mosul, Iraq. A Robert E Lee statue that became the focus of the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in 2017 is depicted suspended in air during its subsequent removal. Elsewhere, Meoni renders bas reliefs from the ancient walls of Babylon that have been withered away by time and war.

In the midst of these acts of destruction and removal is a confrontation with history in which values of the past become questioned by those living today. The urge to remove and destroy these objects evince the operative power of form. However, within this physical destruction something remains: a story, a history, a heritage, and most importantly moments from which to learn. Nothing is ever fully erased.

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Amanita was founded in Florence, Italy in 2021 with the mission of fostering artists from all backgrounds and nationalities at various stages of their careers. With galleries in New York and Florence, and over 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, Amanita approaches its exhibitions and programming with collaboration, thought, and interdisciplinarity.

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Leonardo Meoni
HORSE, 2022
Velvet
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in
200 x 200 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
MOVE MEMORY, 2022
Velvet
118 1/8 x 98 3/8 in
300 x 250 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
Untitled, 2022
Velvet
90 1/2 x 51 1/8 in
230 x 130 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
DISPLACEMENT OF A HOUSE, 2022
Velvet
118 1/8 x 98 3/8 in
300 x 250 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
MOSUL I, 2022
Velvet
118 1/8 x 78 3/4 in
300 x 200 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
MOSUL II, 2022
Velvet
118 1/8 x 78 3/4 in
300 x 200 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
MOSUL III, 2022
Velvet
118 1/8 x 78 3/4 in
300 x 200 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
DECEPTIVE STEP, 2022
Velvet
98 3/8 x 86 5/8 in
250 x 220 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
MOVE A WALL, 2022
Velvet
86 5/8 x 98 3/8 in
220 x 250 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
TEMPORARY OVEN, 2022
Velvet
86 5/8 x 98 3/8 in
220 x 250 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
WHERE ARE YOU BASED, 2022
Velvet
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in
200 x 200 cm

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Leonardo Meoni
LIES, 2022
Velvet
15 3/4 x 68 7/8 in
40 x 175 cm



Leonardo Meoni
SHAME, 2022
Velvet
24 x 16 1/8 in
61 x 41 cm

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