

GALERIAS MUNICIPAIS – ARCO MADRID 2021 - booth 9B27

Galerias Municipais invite Supermala

Mar de Cristal

featuring works by Henrique Loja, James Bantone, Sara Graça, Sofia Montanha and weecolors

Galerias Municipais of Lisbon are present at ARCOmadrid for the fourth consecutive year. Similar to previous presentations, Galerias Municipais' booth features a group of artists that are not yet represented through commercial galleries. For the 2021 edition of the fair, Galerias Municipais invited Supermala, an artist-run initiative from Lisbon to curate their booth. Co-founded by Sofia Montanha and Henrique Loja in 2020, Supermala is a nomad multidisciplinary space intersecting curatorial practice and DIY fashion, hosting events across different art scenes in Europe. In 2021 they opened MALA, an exhibition space in Lisbon's Ajuda neighbourhood.

Borrowing its title from the shimmering name of Mar de Cristal subway station situated close to the IFEMA fairground, this year's exhibition greets fair visitors and friends with an invitation to convene at booth 9B27. *Mar de Cristal* has been especially conceived for the fair booth, where artists Sofia Montanha and Henrique Loja are presenting work alongside James Bantone, Sara Graça and weecolors.

During the past year, artist weecolors started drawing feelings embodied by flowers and animals. While home alone, their drawing practice is accompanied by the reading of poems and queer essays through online interactions on Instagram. The intricate drawings from their *Tus ojos estan rojos* (2021) series are presented adjacent to large digital *Smell my feelings* (2021) wallpaper prints by James Bantone. The artistic practice of Bantone constitutes a continuous exploration of mimetic desire through uncanny reproductions of the coded subtleties of gesture as they pertain to gender, sexuality, and race. Adjacent to the fair booth camping table and seating arrangement, Lisbon-based Sara Graça presents new cardboard sculptures from her *Ratazanas e Calendários* (2020-2021) series. Among other works, Henrique Loja's sculptures *Too too horny dead to live, to cum* (2020-2021) pay homage to bygone picnic congregations. Departing from booth 9B27 and in line with the artist's interest to combine the conceptual qualities of aesthetic trends as a media to test the possibilities of community building in contemporary visual culture, Sofia Montanha and other people connected to the project will be occasionally wearing textile sculptures around the fair.

For further information please contact info@galeriasmunicipais.pt or Tel. +351-91-6571200 and mala@supermala.org or Tel. +351-932798288/ +351-913840247.

Galerias Municipais is a public and non-profit organisation with five galleries in different Lisbon boroughs, Under the auspices of Empresa Municipal de Cultura de Lisboa (EGEAC), Galerias Municipais develop a year-round program of exhibition and events, reflecting the diversity of artistic creation and discourse while also maintaining a trans-disciplinary and transcultural focus.

Sofia Montanha holds a BFA in painting at FBAUL, Lisbon; and a MFA in Arts Practice and Visual Culture at UCLM, Madrid. In 2020 she co-founded *Supermala* together with Henrique Loja. In 2021 they opened MALA in Lisbon. Her work was featured in the group exhibition *Entretecido | Interlace* at Galerias Municipais - Pavilhão Branco, Lisbon, 2021.

Henrique Loja holds a BFA in Painting from FBAUL, Lisbon and a MFA in Contemporary Art Practice, Work.Master, from HEAD - Genève. Upcoming and recent exhibitions include: *Swiss Art Awards 2021*, Messe, Basel; *Prix New HEADS, LiveInYourHead*, Geneva, 2021; *Fridges are not frigid*, Archivio Conz, Berlin, 2019 and *Exercícios de Futurologia* at Galerias Municipais – Galeria Quadrum, Lisbon, 2016.

Sara Graça holds a BFA in Intermedia Studies from FBAUP Porto, and is currently enrolled at Goldsmiths, London, pursuing an MFA in Fine Arts. Recent exhibitions include *Apofenia* at Culturgest, Porto, 2021; *Morangos com Açúcar, A MAIOR* Viseu, 2020, *Ratazanas e Calendários*, Sismógrafo, Porto, 2020. The artist opens a solo exhibition at MALA in November 2021.

weecolors lives in Madrid. *Tus ojos están rojos* is weecolors' first solo show. It opened in January 2021 at Pradera, Madrid.

James Bantone graduated from the Zurich University of the Arts and is currently studying in the program Work.master at the HEAD School of Art and Design in Geneva. Group exhibitions include: Kiefer Hablitzel/ Göhner Art Prize 2020, *Haunted House*, Swiss Institute, New York (2020); *Plattform20*, Kunsthalle Fribourg.

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