

NINO MIER GALLERY

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Still life works, self-portraits and more fill the walls of the Anton Kern Gallery in New York this fall. For one month the gallery will host the works of Los-Angeles based artist Alessandro Pessoli as he uses his self-image creation tactics to generate universal appeal in the exhibition "Against Me".

This exhibition showcases new paintings including self-portraits in which he created reference of traditional Italian paintings, ceramics, sculptural installations and some handmade bows and arrows. This exhibition "Against Me" refers to the year 2016, a blank year according to the artist in which he did nothing but crafting bows, arrows and targets in his back yard and practiced archery. This daily practice of sculpting wood and bone nocks, filing, cutting, and straightening bamboo, replaced his creative urge with a sense of creating a beautiful sculpture. However, this could not assuage his frustration as an artist, which fuelled this series, his symbol of winning a battle against himself, his self-portraits vibrant with beautiful colors and reflecting his everyday life, his wine bottles, shoes, various tools and the lizards in his back yard. He has mixed his Italian past with the city life of Los Angeles, his current home. In one painting, the artist transforms Scipione's "Uomini che si voltano" (1930), one of his childhood favorites, into a city-based landscape where he includes his own image. All these creations reflect the artist's own experience and simultaneously evokes universal appeal. His archery skill is also reflected in some silk-screened large installations of self-portraits and in another sculpture, where bows and arrows are placed on a wooden pedestal with a ceramic face and a bright red neon sign showing 2016.

The presentation is accompanied with an experience for the visitors to sit, relax, while they spend a little time engrossed in "Sandrino," Pessoli's re-created version of a trattoria. Above the painted area of brick wainscoting some of his works are suspended from above which he terms as "Italian restaurant paintings" created in 2015. These paintings have been inspired by the mundane banality and the benign scenes of still life including fishes, as well as sail boats illustrated in these trattorias. To Pessoli's imagination, the fish that has been captured stares out with its gigantic eyes opening an expressive mouth. These still life works are situated in radical orange rooms where a menacing skull figure sails the boat. There is a small sculpture that has been placed to hold a new unglazed ceramic work by the artist created with the purpose to hold salt and pepper. The unglazed faces seen at different junctures throughout the exhibition has a certain reference to the Etruscan funerary sculptures which reflects on a time, according to the artist, "where the end coincides with the new beginning."

"Against Me" is being presented by Anton Kern Gallery from 12th October, 2017 through 11th November, 2017 at New York