

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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Bryan Rogers

Future Fair

May 10-13, 2023

Monya Rowe Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new paintings created specifically for *Future Fair* by **Bryan Rogers**. The fair is open to the public from May 11–13 at the Chelsea Industrial building (535 West 28th St, New York). The invitation only VIP preview will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 4-6 PM.

Rogers' richly colored landscapes feature men situated among stylized forests. For this exhibition, bodies of water and a suite of bathers are introduced. The swimmers dive off trees, attempt backflips, and trot through nature. The bather motif is firmly ensconced in the art history canon. Here, Rogers particularly drew inspiration from Duncan Grant's painting from 1911 titled *Bathing*, which depicts a group of men swimming and diving toward a boat.

In Rogers' paintings, the protagonists appear strong and serene in nature as they flamboyantly pose, and free themselves of their inhibitions. However, at other times, they seem to be deliberately hiding among the forest foliage or ill at ease. Rogers is intrigued by the inherent patterns and symmetry in nature and the body. The patterns constructed allude to the Viennese Succession and Art Deco movements, as well as Folk and Decorative Arts. Each tree, plant or flower is illuminated in dazzling colors. The surreal landscapes lend emotional depth and act as protectors to the men who inhabit them.

Being queer is an intrinsic part of the artists' relationship to the world and the work he creates: "My figures are an amalgam of middle-aged queer men with whom I'm most familiar/familial: myself, my brother, and my partner. The men in my paintings are nude. Their nudity returns them to an animalistic state. They are not predators — I think of them as like deer moving through the woods or goldfish in an aquarium. They don't think about how silly and vulnerable they might be, and they remain this way as long as they keep to their enclosures."

Bryan Rogers (b. 1977, Waterbury, CT) received an MFA from *Pratt Institute*, Brooklyn, NY and a BFA from *Appalachian State University*, Boone, NC. Recent exhibitions include *Taymour Grahne*, London, U.K.; *Kutlesa Gallery*, Goldau, Switzerland and *Monya Rowe Gallery*, NY. The artist lives and works in South Orange, NJ, and is represented by *Monya Rowe Gallery*, NY.

Currently on view at Monya Rowe Gallery

CINDY BERNHARD

May 4 - June 10

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM

Summer hours start June 1

Tuesday - Thursday 12 – 5 PM

Friday 12 - 4 PM

And by appointment