

DAMIEN CIFELLI THE THING BEYOND – ADVENTURES IN TAROGRAMMA

JANUARY 27 – APRIL 20, 2024, Obermarkt 51, Murnau am Staffelsee
OPENING: JANUARY 27, 2024, 5pm – 8pm. The artist will be present.

PULPO GALLERY is delighted to start 2024 with “The Thing Beyond – Adventures in Tarogramma” - Damien Cifelli’s first solo show in Germany.

“I investigate the diversity of people. Tarogramma is a place with no ethnic, cultural or gender dominance. It suggests the idea of a society where the eccentricity and distinct character of people takes precedence over other superficial attributes. Identity is expressed through iconography which creates a narrative thread between the paintings and sculptural work.”

Damien Cifelli, 2024

In “The Thing Beyond: Adventures in Tarogramma” at PULPO GALLERY, Damien Cifelli explores the many ways of depicting the fictional world of Tarogramma and its people but goes beyond the common rituals and ordinary social or societal standards. What is the appeal of the unknown, what comes after the comfort zone, where do we find adventure? And why is this thing beyond obviously so essential for an individual?

On closer inspection, the works give us clues to these questions, inviting us to lose ourselves in the details, symbols, and references to historic paintings and sculptures.



Damien Cifelli, The Foothills, 2023

The Foothills shows three guys, wearing neon-pink track suits in a natural environment under a cloudy sky, expecting something, an event, a change that might lead to an adventure. But they don't do anything, they expect the adventure to come to them, to happen. This passivity of the figures depicted is a common feature of Cifelli's work. The inhabitants of Tarogramma look directly at the viewer, with a certain indifference and dignity. Perhaps even with a hint of superiority.

Like photographic and almost cinematic historical shots, with a clear congruence of ambiguity and feelings engraved on human faces. While the backgrounds almost merge with the subjects in a very scenographic and theatrical way, they also reveal hidden messages about life in Tarogramma: from posters and advertising to abstract scenes, obscure notes and natural elements.

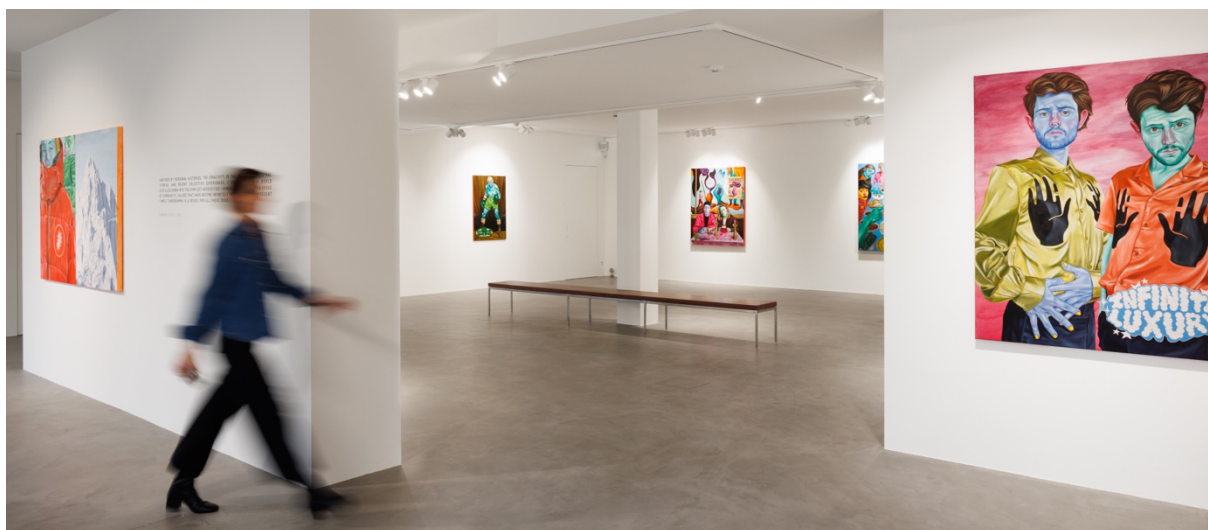
The paintings successfully eschew the ethnical, cultural and sociotypical characteristics of today's generation. Using a deep understanding of icons and symbols and interrogating perceptions of aesthetics, community and identity, the dialogue between the right meaning of lifestyle and personality, Cifelli concentrates in his work on an equal, non-destructive, and highly authentic fictional dimension. He suggests in his work the ever more blurred line between reality and fiction - maybe one's everyday struggle to escape the matrix.

Using straightforward but classical methods involving oil on linen, but artistically and technologically alternating between small and large format canvases, Cifellis works depict in myriad ways across multiple compositions the complexity of human nature. With each painting, he reveals more from Tarogramm, but always leaving the viewer with some questions.



Damien Cifelli, Downtable #2, 2023

Damien Cifelli, born 1991 in Edinburgh, Scotland, is a visionary young artist celebrated for his imaginative prowess and having garnered recognition through multiple prestigious awards. Winner of the 2023 East London Art Prize, Cifelli's creative genius extends across various mediums, from oil paintings to tapestries and sculptures. His ability to construct the fictional world of Tarogramma, complete with its unique culture, has captivated audiences. Notable among his accolades are the 2022 UK New Artists Award and the Delphian Open Call, establishing Cifelli as an emerging force in the contemporary art scene.



CONTACT
Katherina Zeifang

+49 171 177 8796
katherina@pulpogallery.com

More information can be found on our website: