

Independent Art Fair

Ross Caliendo



Ross + Kramer is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Ross Caliendo at this year's Independent Art Fair, New York, opening May 11, 2023.

Ross Caliendo is a Los Angeles-based painter who, through his vibrant, textural paintings, constructs surreal depictions of the natural world that investigate light, energy, and color. Landscape, the primary subject of Caliendo's work, functions as a conduit for the artist's exploration and expression of such ideas.

Caliendo's large-scale works, when viewed up-close, are charged by intricate, discernable brushstrokes and sgraffito—a technique for creating a preliminary surface, covering it with another, and then scraping away the superficial layer to reveal the lower color. Heightened by the artist's frequent use of contrasting color, the combination of gestural strokes and precise, abbreviated marks create a palpable state of energetic excitement

Stepping back from the canvas, texture and competing colors swell with light and take on the form of rocks and vegetation. Etched lattice lines, periodically filled in with rich, uniform shades—as seen in *Yesterday's Xmas*—simulate organic fractal patterns which subtly bring the scene in and out of focus. These new works are imbued with a sense of tranquility and solitude, from the radiating warmth of a fiery sunset in *Tres Sols*, to the comfort and protection of a cool canopy in *Mamoo's Tree*.

In her essay on Ross Caliendo's recent solo exhibition, *Realm*, at the CVG Foundation, Beijing, writer and curator Marie Heilich discusses the experience of retreating even further from the work, wherein the “delusive blending of details and optical mixing of finepoints snap forests into focus as they're cast in the psychological veil of their dominant colors schemes...Engulfed in symbolic space, the viewer is no longer a removed observer of paint on canvas, but rather” the work “implicates an embodied viewer, re-casted as a subject bearing witness from within” the scenes that spill from the canvas.

Caliendo earned his BFA at Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD), Ohio. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally at venues such as No Place Gallery (Columbus, Ohio), Fisher Parrish Gallery (New York, NY), Penske Projects (Montecito, CA), Loyal Gallery (Los Angeles, CA), and Phil Gallery (Los Angeles, CA). In the Summer of 2022, Ross Caliendo participated in the Fores Project Residency Program, which culminated in a group exhibition in London, UK. Most recently, the artist had his first institutional solo exhibition in Asia, entitled *Realm*, at the CVG Foundation, Beijing, China.

Independent Art Fair will run May 12–May 14, 2023, with a private preview on May 11, 2023. The fair will be held at Spring Studios, 6 St Johns Ln, New York, NY. Tickets are available at independent.com. For more information and images, please contact cielle@rkgallery.com.