

GLADSTONE

Ugo Rondinone unveils continuation of *mattituck* series at Gladstone in Brussels

Gladstone is pleased to *present nuns and monks at the sea*, an exhibition of new works by Ugo Rondinone. The show brings together a selection of painted sculptures from his ongoing body of work, nuns + monks, and paintings from his *Mattituck* series, depicting sunsets at the artist's home on Long Island, New York. This marks the first time either series has been presented in Belgium. As is the case with all earlier presentations, this group of paintings and sculptures were made specifically for this context, offering the viewer a serene, soulful, and contemplative environment in which to experience these quiet, powerful works.

Imbued with the weightiness and intrigue of holy people, Rondinone's *nuns + monks* have an undeniable presence, both as individuals and in carefully constructed groupings. These humanoid characters are composed of two elements painted with different colors: a large monolithic stone topped by a smaller one to create a bodily form. Placed on concrete pedestals, each sculpture has its own personality, with varying folds, dents, and crags that create wonderfully complex shadows and textures along their smoothed-out, vibrant finishes. Earlier works from this series consisted of larger-than-life figures that stood massively tall and made of bronze. Here, however, Rondinone has turned his attention to smaller sculptural forms, which appear as votive objects created for solitary connection and prayer. These precious and intimately-sized works demonstrate the care and precision in Rondinone's hand, having been carved from limestone. Walking through the installation in this domestic space turned gallery, the viewer is able to approach each sacred personage and form a significant, singular bond with each figure encountered.

In the *Mattituck* paintings, named for the coastal spit of the North Fork of Long Island where he has a home and studio, Rondinone engages the Romantic sublime to capture the awe-inspiring celestial and oceanic in simplified yet evocative forms, allowing rich colors to permeate each scene with effective power. From this easterly orientation, the course of the sun and moon is particularly dramatic, as their courses curve above the horizon line. Similar to the artist's 'cloud' and 'sun' paintings, each artwork title records the day and year of its completion and provides a diaristic memorial for each moment captured. Each work is composed using three differing, often complementary colors, and celebrates the singular magic of each moment encountered by the artist.

Exhibition Details

nuns + monks at the sea
January 28 – March 4, 2023
Rue du Grand Cerf 12
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

About Ugo Rondinone

Ugo Rondinone (b. 1964, Brunnen, Switzerland) studied at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna before moving to New York in 1997 where he currently lives and works. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006); Art Institute of

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Chicago, Illinois (2013); Rockbund Art Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2016); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Roma, Rome (RS13); Carre D'Art, Nimes, France (2016); Berkeley Art Museum, California (2017); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2017); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021); Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (RSRR); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022); Petit Palais, Paris (2022); Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice (2022); The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023); Parrish Museum, Water Mill, New York (2023); Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2023); Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, New York (2023); Museum SAN, Wonju, Korea (2024) Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2024); Würth Museum, Kunzelsau, Germany (2024); and Aspen Art Museum, Colorado (2024).

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

Press Contact

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