

GLADSTONE

Ugo Rondinone

nuns + monks at the sea

January 28 – March 4, 2023

Opening Reception: January 28, 5–8pm

Grotehertstraat 12 Rue du Grand Cerf

Brussels, Belgium 1000

Gladstone Gallery 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.

Ugo Rondinone was born in 1964 in Brunnen, Switzerland. He studied at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna before moving to New York in 1997, where he lives and works to this day. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006); Art Institute of Chicago (2013); Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai (2014); Palais de Tokyo, (2015); Secession, Vienna (2015); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2016); MACRO, Rome (2016); Carre D'Art, Nîmes (2016); Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley (2017); Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati, Cincinnati (2017); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021); Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (2022); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022); Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice (2022); and Petit Palais, Paris (2022). In 2007 he represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Forthcoming exhibitions include: The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland; Storm King, New York; The Städel Museum, Frankfurt; and The Phillips Collection, Washington.

For further information, please contact: press@gladstonegallery.com