

THE ABSENT ACTOR

WILLOW

LONDON, UK

LUCAS PERTILE, SHOORA MAJEDIAN & BEATRICE ALICI

28 FEBRUARY - 27 MARCH | CURATED BY GEM ZHANG | ONLINE GROUP EXHIBITION

SUPPORT UNICEF

Willow Art Space is delighted to present 'THE ABSENT ACTOR,' an online group exhibition curated by Gem Zhang, featuring three contemporary artists: Lucas Pertile, Shoora Majedian, and Beatrice Alici. The exhibition will run from February 28th to March 27th.

With each swing towards life, Pertile is pulled back by gravity towards death; as Majedian sways towards time, force beckons it back towards timelessness. Alici gracefully oscillates between imperfection and perfection, embodying a presence that is both here and there, yet simultaneously nowhere, rendering each of them an absent actor.

Each year, Pertile returns to the untamed jungle of Misiones, Argentina, where he resides in a primitive setting devoid of modern amenities. Amidst the verdant foliage and the ever-watchful gaze of the Rattlesnake, Pertile finds himself a stranger in nature's embrace. Yet, within this primal realm, he discovers a profound humility and a reverence for the sublime. Much akin to his rustic lifestyle, his artistic oeuvre consistently evokes the mysterious, perilous, and entrancing spirit of South America.

Majedian takes a detached approach to memory and existence, using painting as a medium to interweave political and historical elements, thereby reconstructing timeless moments. Many of the pieces in this exhibition draw inspiration from Majedian's birthplace and the Bas-Reliefs of Persepolis in Iran, where reality and myth converge through the medium of paint.

Hailing from the enchanting city of Venice, Alici's creations often portray ancient, eternal nights inhabited by enigmatic, dreamlike goddesses and witches. Alici casts her gaze upon reality, capturing the magical, serene, sacred, and dynamic inner worlds of women.

THE ABSENT ACTOR will also pledge a portion* of its proceeds to UNICEF's global initiatives to support children worldwide affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters. With each moment of hope, children affected are pulled back by the gravity of adversity, yearning for stability amidst chaos. UNICEF, standing as a beacon of compassion and resilience, offers a lifeline to these vulnerable children, striving to bridge the gap between despair and hope.

To register your interest in acquiring available works, please kindly email info@willowartspace.com.

*Please get in touch to know more





LUCAS PERTILE

Lucas Pertile (1976), born in Resistencia, Chaco, Argentina, lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Pertile grew up in Chaco, in the far north of Argentina, an area with an extremely harsh climate where the riverscape is of the utmost importance: it makes life there possible but can also be dangerous, both in itself and due to the flora and fauna it harbors. He often finds himself revisiting memories of youthful explorations of this landscape, frequently accompanied by groups of monkeys in the treetops and fleeting glimpses of unidentified creatures in the shadows. At certain times of day, it can become otherworldly; for instance, in the evening, what is generally a sluggish, brown mass of water can suddenly turn bright violet, and the constantly shifting shapes around him become profoundly eerie, as if his subconscious fantasies were spilling out into the real world. Later in life, he was fortunate enough to establish a studio in another province to the north of Argentina, Misiones, where the river and jungle are similarly significant and, if anything, even more lush and all-encompassing. Embedded in these landscapes, life, death, joy, and horror never seem very far away. It was inevitable that these experiences, these atmospheres, would find their way into his art, and, for better or worse, Pertile tends to let them dictate the terms.

Solo Exhibitions:

2023 Dream Walker, Coral Contemporary Art Gallery, Miami, US; 2023 Roverano, Eligere Gallery, Seoul, South Korea; 2023 Monkey Island, Bark Berlin Gallery, Berlin, Germany; 2020 Alucinaciones a la orilla de Río, Galería Isabel Anchorena, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2017 Luminiscencia, Galería Isabel Anchorena, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2015 Irse a la Selva, Galería Teresa Anchorena, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Group Exhibitions:

2023 Jul, Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg, Denmark; 2023 Centro del Conocimiento, Posadas, Misiones, Argentina; 2023 Cuentos de la Selva, Fundación Pons, Madrid, Spain; 2023 News from Abroad, Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg, Denmark; 2023 Soulscapes, Meyer Riegger, Germany; 2022 Moon Child, Bark Berlin Gallery, Germany; 2022 Art Herning, Blokhuis Edition, Galerie Wolfsen, Denmark; 2021 Here come The Suns, Bark Berlin Gallery, Germany; 2021 Emergence, Rise Art, London, UK; 2021 When Sinners Feast, Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg, Denmark; 2019 Collective Exhibition, Coral Contemporary Gallery, Miami, United States; 2018 Garnacha, Error Art Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina



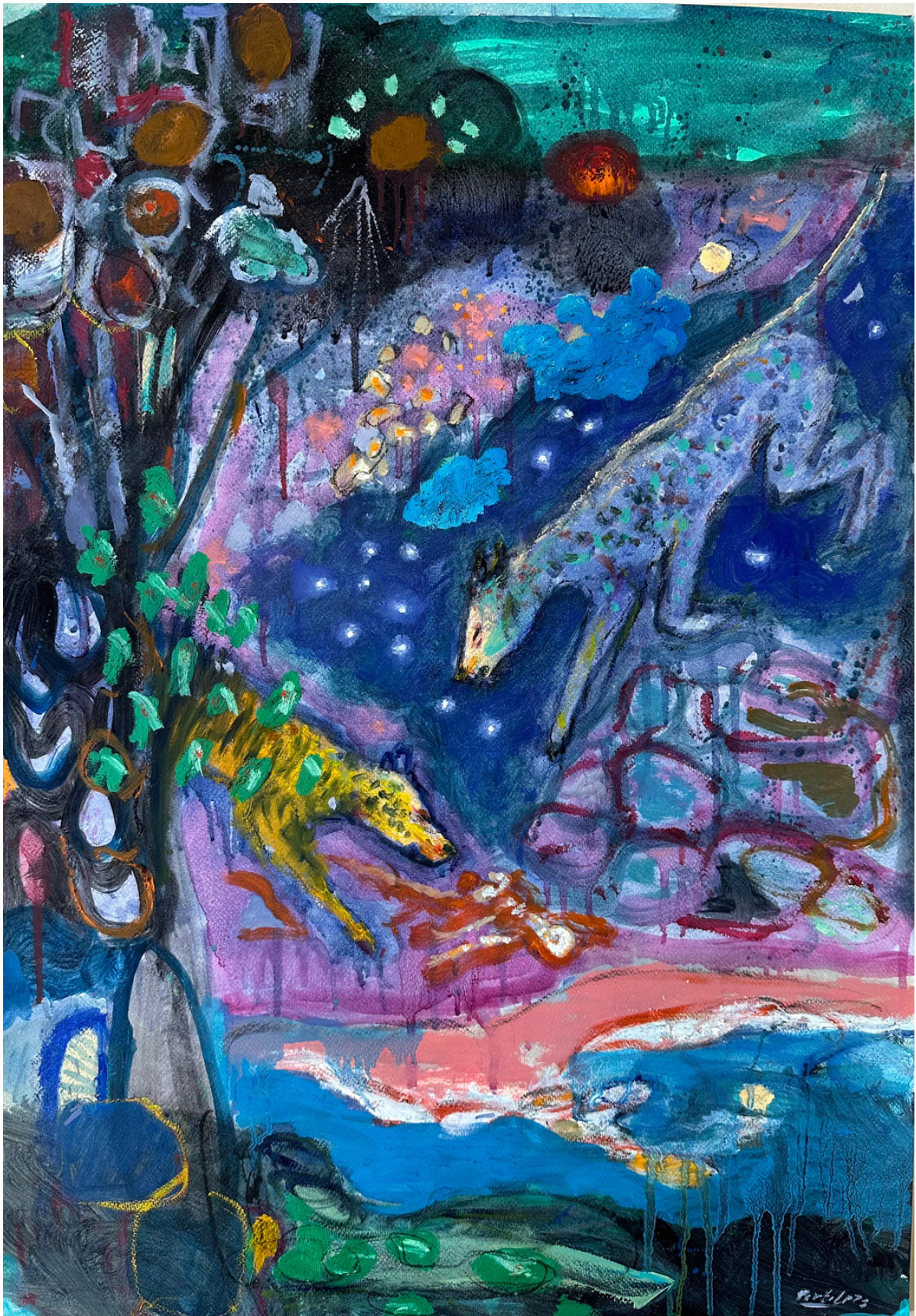


ACQUA (series), 2013

Watercolor, pastel and charcoal on paper
75 x 160 cm each

£3300 Each





Fishers' Feast, 2023

Oil on paper
51 x 75 cm

£2500





The Bugs and The Río Negro, 2019

Oil, acrylic and charcoal on canvas
90 x 100 cm

£4000





Vampires of the Jungle, 2023

Mixed media on paper
100 x 145 cm

£6000



SHOORA MAJEDIAN

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran, Majedian lives and works in Vancouver, Canada.

Majedian's artistic practice delves into the intricate consequences of theocracy, contemplating the emancipation and constraints of the figure within space. Informed by her embodied experiences, a comparative language emerges in her paintings, intertwining movement, chaos, and contrasting visual elements. The inspiration for her painting content arises from the relationship between ordinary moments and socio-political imprints.

Each of Majedian's painting represents a new exploration, demanding fresh mark-making and formal decisions. Whether driven by theme or the challenge of depiction, she aims to imbue each work with a distinct expression and mood. Entitled "Bloody Lipsticks," part of this body of paintings portrays the convergence of female figures with a camel, illustrating a transformative morphing of these entities. The camel (surviving in the desert without drinking water for a long time) symbolizes endurance in the face of adversity. The visual interplay between the bullet and lipstick patterns accentuates the contrast between elements of femininity vs. violence.



These sociopolitical narratives strive to represent contemporary Middle Eastern challenges through a familiar Western visual language, offering a more nuanced perspective than what social media and news outlets convey to both Western and non-Western audiences.

Solo Exhibitions:

2023 Resurrection, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Canada; 2022 DAMAVAND, Nicodim Gallery, LA, USA; 2018 Moments, Cafe Pamenar, Toronto, Canada

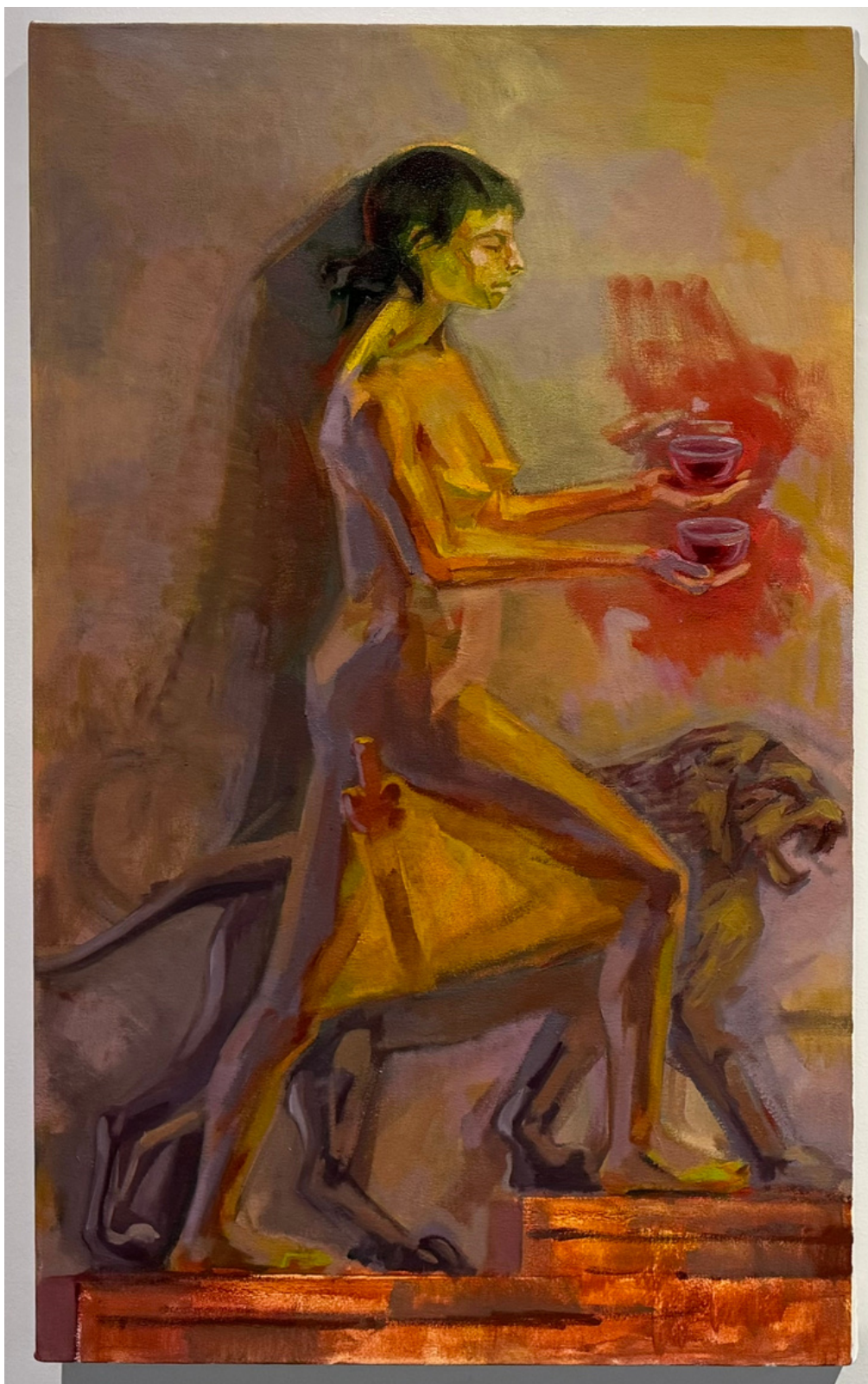
Selected Group Exhibitions:

2023 Unveiling Honor, Roundhouse Community Arts and Creation, Vancouver, Canada; 2023 Ten, WAAP, Vancouver, Canada; 2022 Self Portrait, The Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran; 2022 You Me Me You, Nicodim Gallery, LA, USA; 2022 Edge of Vision, Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran; 2022 Art 2022, Surrey Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; 2021 Space: Chapter One, Oliva Gallery, Chicago, USA; 2021 The Journey of Accessing, The Libby Leshgold Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; 2021 Interruptions, Aboriginal Gathering ECUAD, Vancouver, Canada

Awards:

2023 William and Isabel Pope NSCAD Painting Residency Grant in Halifax, Nova Scotia; 2023 Individual Arts Awards from BC Arts Council; 2022 Recipient of The Joe Plaskett Foundation Painting Award; 2022 Professional Development Grant from BC Arts Council; 2022 Research and Creation Grant from Canada Council for the Arts





Shiraz Steps, 2023

Oil on canvas
91.4 x 55.9 cm

£5100





Heated Hands, 2023

Oil on canvas
91.4 x 66 cm

£5500





Bloody Lipsticks, 2023

Oil on canvas
92.7 x 76.2 cm

£6500





High Heels, 2023

Oil on canvas
76.2 x 88.9 cm

£6500



BEATRICE ALICI



Born in 1992 in San Donà di Piave, Venice, Beatrice lives and work in Milan, Italy.

Alici's artistic research is linked to the theme of a return to a primordial psychological space. Archaic and timeless places are mainly represented in nocturnal scenes, in which figures and natural landscapes merge into each other. The night represented is imaginary, the darkness is a symbolic space that allow the artist to delve into the representation of intimate places with an introspective character.

The figures that most frequently populate her imagery are female, who are represented with enigmatic, supernatural elements, often linked to folklore: depicted as goddesses or witches, they evoke a divine matriarchy.

The use of moonlight is a further symbolic suggestion to the sphere of the sacred and primordial feminine, making the scenes depicted more delicate, dreamlike and mysterious.

Thus, images emerge of an inner world of the artist far removed from reality, emphasized by references to the magical and surreal.

Solo Exhibitions:

2023 Moonbath Magic, Galleria Michela Rizzo 2, Mestre, Venice, Italy

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2023 Italian Painting today, Palazzo dell'Arte, Triennale of Milan, Milan, Italy; 2023 Venice Time Case - Venice Meets Cucchi, Antonio Verolino Gallery, Modena, Italy; 2023 Fondazione Malutta in spazio, Spazio Contemporanea, Brescia, Italy; 2023 Though the fruits of Eden, Boscolo Hotel, Lyon, France; 2023 Venice Time Case, Monitor Gallery, Rome, Italy; 2023 Cross Breeze, Oneroom Gallery, London, UK; 2023 A Gift to the Dark, VIN VIN, Vienna, Austria; 2022 Vedute. Villa Aventino a Venezia, Galleria Michela Rizzo, Venice, Italy; 2022 NP Viewing room, NP Viewing room, Milan, Italy; 2022 Venice Time Case, NP-Art-Lab, Padua, Italy; 2022 Divertissement, TERZO SPAZIO, Venice, Italy; 2022 Venice Time Case, Galerie Italienne, Paris, France; 2021 Venice Time Case, Tomma- so Calabro Gallery, Milan, Italy; 2021 Punto Zero - Identità sospese, Palazzo D'Avalos, Vasto, Italy; 2021 Opus Focus, Calle Legrenzi, Venice, Italy





Nightfall I, 2022

Oil on canvas
180 x 140 cm

£5500





Nightfall II, 2022

Oil on canvas
200 x 150 cm

£6000





Dreamland, 2021

Oil on panel
12.6 x 12.6 cm

£600







Midnight Appointment, 2023

Oil and acrylic on linen
150 x 200 cm

£7000



WILLOW

 London, United Kingdom
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Nestled within the vibrant tapestry of the art world, Willow Art Space (WAS) was founded in London in 2022.

As a socially conscious art enterprise, Willow Art Space is dedicated to discovering, championing, and advocating for young, emerging, and underrepresented artists alongside their impactful social causes.

At the heart of our mission lies our commitment to hosting exhibitions that not only showcase the exceptional works of these artists but also facilitate their sale and provide mentorship and guidance. Unique to our approach is our pledge to donate half of the gallery's commission to charities chosen by the artists.

Guided by three fundamental pillars:

- **Introducing Emerging Talent:**

We tirelessly seek out and promote emerging and underrepresented artists through exhibitions and comprehensive social media promotion.

- **Supporting Artists and Fostering Relationships:**

We believe in transparent financial arrangements, offering fair commission rates and clear payment terms. We assist artists in accessing workshops, residencies, and skill development opportunities, while also guiding them through the intricate business aspects of the art world. Furthermore, we actively encourage and support collaborations between artists and other creative professionals, fostering cross-disciplinary projects that push boundaries.

- **Artist-driven Activism:**

We empower artists to utilize their creative voices to support social causes, facilitating collaborations and forming innovative partnerships that drive positive change.

At Willow Art Space, we envision a future where art transcends boundaries, fostering meaningful connections and driving impactful change in our communities and beyond.