

ZONA FRANCA PROJECTS

12 NOTES

Zachary Cahill | Oasa DuVerney | Shahrzad Kamel | Ling-lin Ku | Allison Malinsky | Alex McQuilkin
Miloslav Moucha | NoN Project | Pierre Obando | Isis Prager | Wilfried Prager | John Torreano

Curated by Allison Malinsky

September 15 – October 6, 2021

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 17:00 – 21:00

Open House Weekend: September 18, 12:00 – 21:00 and Sept. 19, 12:00 – 19:00

Zona Franca Projects is pleased to present *12 Notes*, the inaugural exhibition in its expansive 150-m² industrial space. The group exhibition features works, in a variety of media, by internationally-based artists Zachary Cahill, Oasa duVerney, Shahrzad Kamel, Ling-lin Ku, Allison Malinsky, Alex McQuilkin, Miloslav Moucha, NoN Project, Pierre Obando, Isis Prager, Wilfried Prager, and John Torreano. There will be an opening reception at Plaça del Nou, 1, Zona Franca, Barcelona, on Wednesday September 15 from 17:00 – 21:00, and the exhibition is open by appointment through October 6, 2021.

The title and premise of this show derive from the quantity of tones in both the visual and musical chromatic scales. Each tone has twelve foundational colors or notes that can be mixed to create infinite expressive combinations. The works in this exhibition highlight the artistic individuality and boundless creativity produced from this short range of established units.

The artists in this exhibition are part of a long historical legacy to be able to use these few fundamental tools to arrive at meaning, something extraordinary and individually theirs—beyond just surface color and some variety of technical skills.

In this exhibition, **Wilfried Prager's** paintings and **John Torreano's** painted columns filled with energized terrestrial stars (plastic gems) both toll sonorous light of the deep cosmos. At the time of **Miloslav Moucha's** Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage that set off his 1980's *Spanish Cycle* paintings of high contrast primaries, he said, "I give the colors back to the light." **Allison Malinsky** makes use of color in her 3D paintings to understand the temporality of her surrounding mythicized landscapes, while **Zachary Cahill's** radical flowers (that come with a manifesto) demonstrate his deft endeavor to detect where, "in a propaganda saturated nation, our self begins."

Oasa DuVerney pushes and pulls color layers in her print quadruple to echo the original image of her work, of which she writes, "made me think about the idea that we who are working towards complete liberation are all singing the same song, throughout time, space, and change." **Alex McQuilkin** uses pastels to reflect on gender stereotypes and impossible, even conflicting, societal demands on women.

Other artists manipulate the pigments of their corresponding media to contend with process and materiality, **Pierre Obando** with painting and **Shahrzad Kamel** with photography. **Ling-lin Ku** combines disorienting color and contradictory materials to playfully question our understanding of the physical world, as the sound artists, **Isis Prager** and **NoN Project**, beg us to join them on their dreamlike soundscapes.

Despite their clear individuality and unique approach to the use of "notes", joining these diverse artists for this exhibition demonstrates that together, despite differences, they create a singular voice that sings of whole scales and spectrums, not just one color or a single note.

Zona Franca Projects is a contemporary art gallery, established in January 2021, to amplify the presence of international artists in Barcelona. Founded by Allison Malinsky and Wilfried Prager, the artist-run gallery is in the process of applying for its non-profit status.

For more information or images, please contact: Allison Malinsky, founding director allison@zonafrancaprojects.com



Zachary Cahill, I Will Never Be Pretty (flower), 107cm X 109", acrylic on paper, 2020

Visual Artists:

Zachary Cahill, lives and works in Chicago, IL, US

Oasa DuVerney (b. 1979, Queens, NY, US) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, US

Shahrzad Kamel (b.1979, San Francisco, CA, US) lives and works in New York City, NY, US

Ling-lin Ku is a Taiwan born, US based artist

Allison Malinsky (b. 1980, Canterbury, NH, US) lives and works in Barcelona, Spain.

Alex McQuilkin, lives and works in New York, US

Miloslav Moucha (b. 1942, Litvinov, Czech Republic) lives and works between Paris and Prague

Pierre Obando (b. Belize City, Belize) lives and works in New York City, NY, US

Wilfried Prager (b. 1964, Paris, France) lives and works in Barcelona, Spain

John Torreano (b. 1941, Flint, MI, US) lives and works in New York City, NY, US

Sound Artists:

NoN Project, comprised of Luisa Rossini (Italy), Abigail Holman (San Francisco, CA, US) and Federico Civiello (Italy)

Isis Prager (b. 1996, Paris, France) lives and works in Paris, France

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