

Arcadia, Missa :

In Sahhar's paintings, masculinity pumps into the polished gutters of the high street from gentrified gyms and wifi-enabled cafes. At what point does the individual become gentrified? Where is the boundary between the inner body and public space? Sahhar's paintings communicate these questions as well as personal feelings of alienation by the male gender. Centred around an understanding of how the actions of men fuel the changes and gentrification occurring in London, Sahhar uses painted avatars to look at how gendered identity and masculine characteristics inform and shape such processes – to the detriment of others and specifically, the oppressive effect this can have on the queer body and communities.

'This is not the earth, where things are weighed down'; this exhibition imagines a fictional space, following a long tradition of dystopian art and literature (such as Porpentine Charity Heartscape's novella *Psycho Nymph Exile*). *Totally Different Animals* presents a critique of hyper-masculine neoliberal capitalism under the sleek guise of the cyber-gothic.

Gaby Sahhar is a London-based multidisciplinary artist. His work has recently been included in *Late At Tate*, Tate Britain (London); *Everyone Is Rich Now Apparently*, Arcadia Missa (New York); *Encounters*, Galleri Mejan (Stockholm) as well as a solo exhibition at Play-co, London and screenings at the Penarth Centre (London), Samariterstrasse 35 (Berlin) and Tesco Extra (Streatham). Sahhar also is the founding member of the LGBTQI+ curatorial platform *Queerdirect* which has previously run workshops at the Penarth Centre and the Tate Britain, continuing with a workshop at Somerset House on March 22nd.

Rosie Grace Ward is an artist and writer based in London. Recent exhibitions include *The Unlimited Dream Company*, Hannah Barry Gallery (2017); *TAPE*, Copeland Gallery (2017); *UNIT*, CGP London (2016) and *Religious Art*, Hotel Elephant (2015). Her first novella is under contract with The Ideal Press, London for 2018. She was the 2017 recipient of the Vanguard Prize.

Organised by Ruth Pilston

For further enquiries, contact: ruth@arcdiamissa.com