

Bim Bam Gallery, in collaboration with pt.2 Gallery, presents

Californisme : partie 2

Brett Flanigan

Liz Hernández

Meryl Pataky

Maria Paz

Muzae Sesay

Ryan Whelan

Chelsea Wong

PRESS KIT



BIM BAM

Californisme : partie 2



Bim Bam Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition "Californisme : partie 2", organized in collaboration with pt.2 Gallery (Oakland, CA).

"Californisme : partie 2" is a continuation of the gallery's inaugural exhibition, "Californisme". Spotlighting the artistic scene of **Oakland, California**, this group show presents for the first time in France seven artists whose work is nourished by their immediate environment and the interactions they experience there. Their works cover a variety of practices and give us a glimpse of the poetry emanating from their everyday lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Brett Flanigan's smooth and rhythmic abstractions, **Liz Hernández's** Mexican inspired narrative compositions, **Meryl Pataky's** mystical neon sculptures and **Maria Paz's** ceramics that stand as an act of resilience give us a new vision of our current world, through the perspectives of this young generation of artists. Whether a view of nature or architecture, **Muzae Sesay** playfully deconstructs his world to recompose it on the canvas. His painting resonate with **Ryan Whelan's** stylized, almost naive, landscapes that stimulate the poetry in our imagination. More figurative, **Chelsea Wong** invites us to celebrate the simple pleasures that daily life has to offer, in vivid scenes as sunny and convivial as this exhibition.



Bim Bam Gallery
7 rue Froissart, 75003 Paris
Open June 9th and 10th
www.bimbam.gallery - baimba@bimbam.gallery

BRETT FLANIGAN

Born in 1986 in Great Falls, MT. Lives and works in Oakland, CA.

Brett Flanigan holds a degree in Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He works primarily in painting and sculpture. His work has been exhibited in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, Portland, Atlanta, and Chicago, as well as internationally in Hamburg, Germany and Warsaw, Poland. Flanigan has also completed a number of public artworks, including a mural at the Lilley Museum at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a large-scale public sculpture in downtown Oakland.



Colorless green ideas sleep furiously (2021)
Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in

« The title is a sentence written by linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky as an example of a sentence that is grammatically correct, but also completely nonsensical. I like this idea in terms of abstract painting. Maybe it is just nonsense, maybe you can stretch your brain to find a meaning in it. It can evoke emotion and just feel right. »

LIZ HERNÁNDEZ

Born in 1993 in Mexico City. Lives and works in Oakland, CA.

Liz Hernández is a Mexican artist based in Oakland who works primarily with topics related to her upbringing. Inspired by the magical realism movement in Latin America, she uses imagery from memories of living in Mexico City, adopting supernatural elements and symbolism to address modern-life subjects. Hernández's practice focuses on painting and sculpture, and most recently, murals. She has exhibited work in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Mexico City.



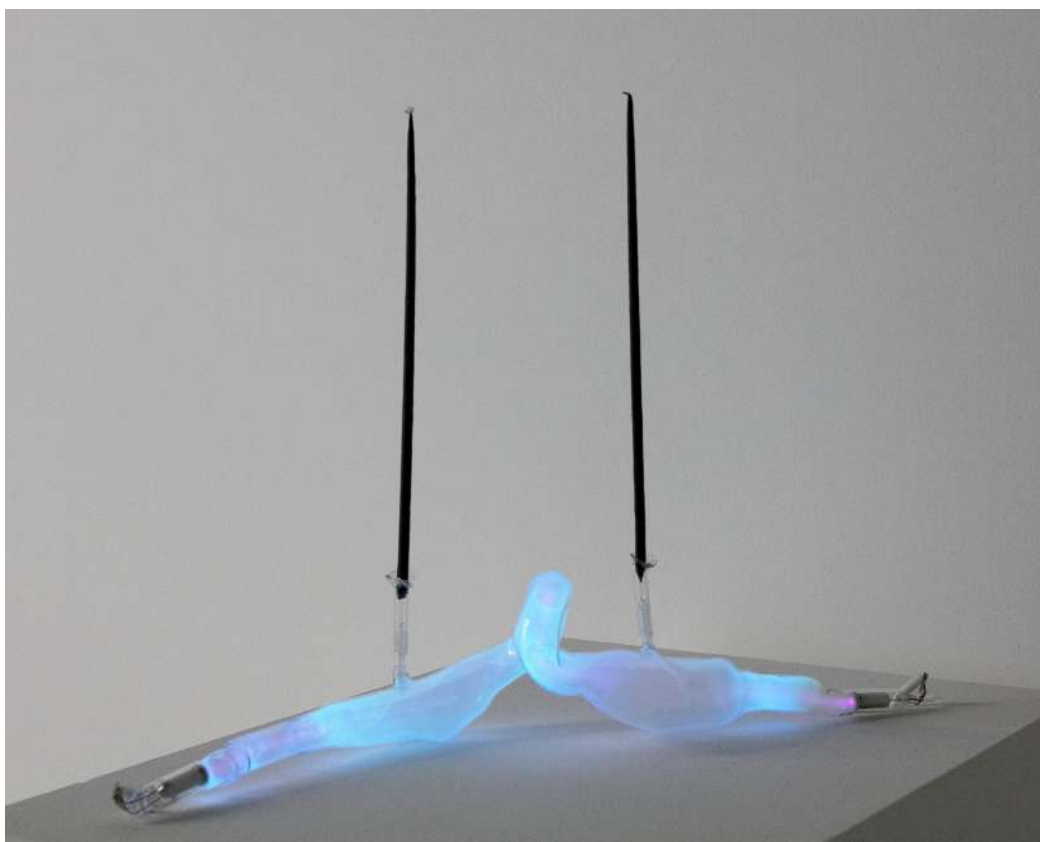
La mano (La main) (2021)
Clay, silver leaf, and vinyl paint on paper, 26.5 x 26.5 in

« It is a depiction of a story that happened to my dad when he was a kid. When I was younger I never paid attention to the stories my family would share with me. Now that we are far away, I understand how valuable they are. It is a way for me to connect with him but also, to honor a great story that I wanted to depict so that it outlives my dad and me. »

MERYL PATAKY

Born in 1983 in Palm Beach, FL. Lives and works in San Francisco, CA.

Meryl Pataky moved to San Francisco in 2002 to attend the Academy of Art University. She fell in love with the tactile nature of sculpture and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture. An artist of many disciplines and mediums, Meryl focuses on the relationship between her own hands and material.



Kol Nidre (2021)

Soft glass, phosphor, argon, neon, candles, 5 x 21 x 6 in

« The title, that could be translated as "All vows", refers to a Jewish prayer performed at the start of Yom Kippur services. The sculpture has a layered context right now because of the most recent events between Israel and Palestine and the idea of repentance, my own journey with my Judaism. »

MARIA PAZ

Born in 1989 in Quilpue, Chili. Lives and works in Oakland, CA.

Maria Paz is a self-taught Latinx sculptor based in Oakland, California. Her work explores the bond broken with her home country and how her experience as an immigrant in the United States has shaped a multiplicity of identities within her. By painting visions of Chile, her ancestors and her higher self, Paz archives her personal history on her ceramic vessels as an act of resilience.



Tus Ojos Que Saben (2021)
Ceramic and glaze, 16 x 10 x 8 in

MUZAE SESAY

Born in 1989 in Long Beach, CA. Lives and works in Oakland, CA.

Oakland-based painter Muzae Sesay has shown widely since 2015, with dozens of solo and group exhibitions in the Bay Area as well as additional presentations in Los Angeles, New York, London and Copenhagen. Sesay's richly chromatic, geometrically structured works deftly allude to history, community, personal experience and the world around us. Much of his work explores the formation and fragmentation of memory, identity and human connection in relationship to environments and architectural spaces real and imagined.

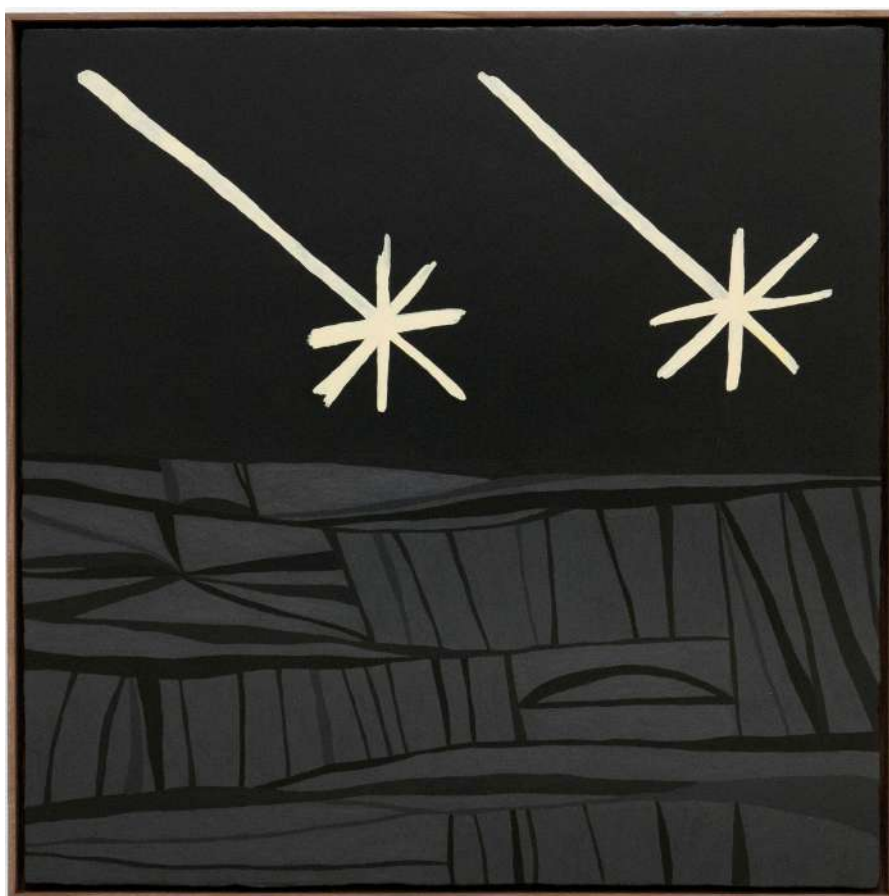


*Two tables pushed together to make one big table (2021)
Oil pastel on canvas, 24 x 36 in (triptych)*

RYAN WHELAN

Born in 1991. Lives and works in Oakland, CA

Ryan Whelan is an Oakland-based visual artist whose current practice investigates how connections can create a sense of place. Originally from Torrance, California, Whelan moved to the Bay Area in 2009 to earn his BFA in Printmaking from San Francisco State. In addition to his art practice, he has been working at the Creative Growth Art Center since 2015.



In the darkness we wondered (2021)
Acrylic and pastel on wood panel, 28 x 28 in

« I've driven across the country a few times, and whenever I would arrive at my destination during the evening when the moon was out, I always had trouble getting a sense of what that place really looked like. I think in the darkness, my mind was allowed to wonder. Whenever I remember this, it makes me laugh a little bit and think about all the shining moments in my life that feel far away like those stars.

CHELSEA WONG

Born in 1986 in Seattle, WA. Lives and works in San Francisco, CA.

Across Wong's paintings, whether densely populated or sparse, a utopic sense of joy and acceptance emanates from her work. People of every imaginable background mix and mingle creating joyful scenarios devoid of prejudice or exclusion. Wong presents worlds that exist between the imaginary and real, a magical place that could be, not too far from reality.



Badminton on the Beach (2021)
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 30 in

« I am inspired to create imagery that shows people of color having fun, celebrating life without painting hardship. These works are joyous, and bring the viewer to a relaxing place. The positivity is political, not all politics need to be in your face, some rebellious works are more subtle.. »

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