

# SUMMER MARATHON 2021

11 - 21 AUGUST 2021

**B**EERS London's annual *Summer Marathon* opens for its third year on 11 August. This year, 5 artists were selected (3 exhibiting in August & 2 exhibiting in January '22\*) by a jury of industry professionals including New York-based gallerist Yossi Milo and California-based gallerist Lorna York, and London collector Eugenio Re Rebaudengo, amongst others. We are so excited that this year our selection of artists come from a diverse range of backgrounds and education and includes painting, textile-based pieces, ceramics, video, and other art forms. \*The 2 artists exhibiting in January '22 are Nour Jaouda & Gwil Hughes.

## Joël Bigaignon | Gori Mora | Krzysztof Strzelecki

Joël Bigaignon: *Fluctuation of Momentary Memories*

Joël's paintings are a playful blend of paper collage on wood panel reflective of life growing up on the island of Mauritius. Later in life and further into his artistic career, Joël began making work based on his memories of the annual cyclones that destroyed his family home. So deep rooted in his DNA were these events – destruction and subsequent rebuilding of his home – Joël uses materials available such as old newspapers and wallpaper, gluing new on to old, layering images of politicians and policemen on top of both old and recent news stories. Collage fuelled Joël's imagination in such a way that led to an obsession with the process as a means of exploring the topics of memory and unfolding stories.

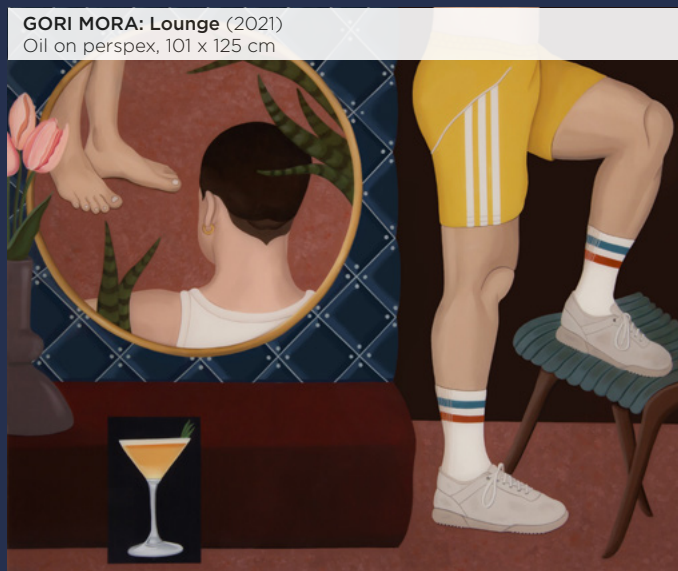
Gori Mora & Krzysztof Strzelecki: *Mapping Desire*

Poland and London-based ceramicist Krzysztof Strzelecki and Glasgow-based painter Gori Mora join their independent artistic practices for a joint exhibition, entitled *Mapping Desire*. The exhibition is the first of four exhibitions commissioned for the Summer Marathon open call proposal.

Both artists challenge and subvert the concept of 'Queer Art' by presenting works that appear both domestic and/or traditional, but challenge and radicalize what we come to expect from more normative art forms.

Krzysztof's early religious education in the religious backdrop of Poland helped form his passion for classic mythology, classical art, and a desire to subvert convention. The young artist plays with themes of eroticism and fantasy, issues concerning homosexuality, liberation, and acceptance within society. His collection of vases playfully and wryly present the gay man in a natural environment, in pieces reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, each titled after famed London cruising areas.

Painter Gori Mora's work focuses on the way in which technology contributes to our social interactions and how we (and/or gay men) perceive ourselves/themselves in contemporary society. The works are painted (in a truly remarkable 'reverse' process) using oil paint on Perspex, lending to a sort of glossy, dreamlike characteristic reminiscent of glamour magazines or even the sheen of a computer screen. Gori conceptualizes this subject through the creation of hypothetical Queer situations in the virtual space. Recurrent themes include interpersonal relationships, expectations of gay male society, dating apps, and the way men choose to cultivate their personas on online platforms and in society.



JOEL BIGAIGNON (b. 1968 Curepipe, Mauritius) Joel is a self-taught artist currently living and working in Copenhagen, Denmark. Previous group shows have included 'Janus' at Vestjylland Kunstmuseum in Demark (2016) and Kunsthal Aarhus, Denmark (2016). Solo shows have been held at Galerie Teodora, Paris (2020) and Christina Stokkebro, Denmark (2009).



KRZYSZTOF STRZELECKI (b. 1993 Świdnica, Poland) currently alternates between Świdnica and London. Strzelecki completed his BA at Camberwell, University of the Arts London, graduating in 2019. Previous group exhibitions include 'Love my way #2' at the 35<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Fashion, Photography and Fashion Accessories at Villa Noailles, France (2020) and 'Queer Art at Camberwell', Camberwell Student Gallery, London (2019).



GORI MORA (b. 1992 Mallorca, Spain) currently lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland. Gori graduated in 2018 from the Glasgow School of Art with an MLitt in Fine Art, prior to this he completed a degree in Fine Arts from Barcelona University in 2015. Previous solo exhibitions include '#luvthebody' at the Contemporary Art Festival, Mallorca (2019). Group exhibitions include 'Queer Contemporaries', AIR Gallery, Manchester (2020) and 'Fling - Relay #3', Tramway, Glasgow (2019).

