

SAATCHI YATES

14 Bury Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6AL | www.saatchiyates.com

BIJJOO

16th March – 28th May 2023

Saatchi Yates is proud to present the inaugural solo exhibition of American TikTok sensation Michael Todd Horne - known as Bijjoo (b. 1975), with a select number of new works delving into his personal world of monsters and characters that garnered him a cult following since joining the platform in March 2021.



BIJJOO - *Disguise*, 2023, Oil, acrylic & pastel on canvas, 160 x 160 cm

A zoo-like array of large-scale paintings sees amorphous, colour-drenched monsters emerge at Saatchi Yates, some with an unsettling glee reminiscent of the wonder and dread felt towards the unknown in childhood. Off-kilter in their gait and proportions, they lurch towards the boundaries of the canvas, and tap into nostalgia.

Bijjoo's paintings result from process-driven experimentation with painting media and automatic drawing, using traditional and digital techniques. He builds mixed media layers to amplify interplays of light, colour, and texture. Images are conjured from chaos, in a process akin to divination. The forms that take shape trend toward human and animal: grotesque exaggerations of life, monstrous cartoons, vanitas. Narratives emerge through these interactions, reflecting struggle, celebration, and introspection. The results depict experiences, interactions, and movements frozen in a personal space and time. In his practice, Bijjoo makes an innovative contribution to the artistic fields of figuration, abstraction and digital, weaving his lifelong passion for painting and drawing with his technical studies in mathematics, physics, computer science, and chemistry, which culminated in a Ph.D in biophysics in 2008. Though, at the heart of his work is the inspiration he draws from his daughter's imagination and love of monsters



BIIJJO - *Human*, 2023, Oil, acrylic & pastel on canvas, 160 x 160 cm

Through meticulously framed, step-by-step shots of his painting processes, Bijijoo's TikTok videos convey the physicality of his work, accompanied with ASMR-inducing sound editing, and self-composed electronic music.

"I get comments from [young people] that their art teacher - some dude somewhere - thinks that good art has to be realistic. Or they talk about other limitations," says Bijijoo. "But then someone sees these videos where I'm just throwing mixed media around, and it inspires them to break out of that mould. That's something I love. I definitely want to live in a world where people are more creative."

ABOUT SAATCHI YATES

Saatchi Yates is a commercial gallery founded by Phoebe Saatchi Yates and Arthur Yates which opened in London's Mayfair in October 2020. Over the past two years, the gallery has gained a strong reputation for representing and showcasing emerging artists, staging large-scale exhibitions as well as presenting blue-chip contemporary art drawn from leading private collections. In 2023, Saatchi Yates departed its location on Cork Street with a move to Bury Street, St James's. The new 12,000 square foot ground floor gallery space at the heart of London's unrivaled neighbourhood for both Contemporary and Classical art. With a large main gallery for the display of their primary artists, as well as two private rooms to showcase secondary artworks from world-renowned artists.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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