

UNO+UNO
Ieva Petersone
Dimitri Agnello

27 February 2018 - 21 April 2018

Opening: Monday 26 February 2018 at 7pm

M77 Gallery presents UNO+UNO, a new double personal show by **Ieva Petersone** (Jelgava, Latvia, 1984) and **Dimitri Agnello** (Carrara, Italy, 1995) which will be open to the public from Tuesday 27 February 2018 to Saturday 21 April 2018.

The two young artists are the stars of an original dialectic on colour and the use of materials that expresses, albeit with diametrically-opposed results, a common creative research thread based on the references, allusion and illusion of the image.

**Ieva Petersone** created a series of large paintings, specifically for the exhibition, entitled *Allegoritmica*, with which she wishes to convey “impressions” of daily life, starting from the design studio, that creative hub of her artistic production.

The jumping-off point of Ieva Petersone’s research was the structure of objects as a whole, with the desire to build a chain of thoughts in the viewer that can leave them with an impression in which the single object, or the object as such, is no longer relevant. What takes centre stage in its stead is the triggering impulse, the creative gesture that, through objects of daily use, overwhelms the everyday, transfiguring it into something extraordinary.

The artist’s eye plays with the viewer’s gaze, creating a dimension of analogies and references in which a group of green chairs resembles a forest, and the lines of neatly-stacked chairs transform into urban architecture, skyscrapers, factories. With her desire to go beyond the single object thanks to the creation of a rhythmic, purposely repetitive composition, the artist plays with repeating sequences of lines that create rational geometries brought to life by lively areas of colour.

With this series, Petersone continues her research on design, started with big compositions of interior furnishings inspired by the design magazines of the ‘60s, later continued with experimentation on the detail of the object, once again concentrating on a “choral” representation with *Allegoritmica*, which, however, shuns formal compositions to recreate a new personal, intimate and playful universe.

**Dimitri Agnello** is showing a series of works of oil on cotton, created especially for the exhibition, the result of three years of research on image and its perception. The central theme of the works on show is education, to be taken not only as formal education, but also as growth and the creation of expectations, rigor, imposition, domestication.

Agnello’s works are the result of a long gestation period, a sort of “ritual” of research, selection, storage and reworking of visual material. Agnello reappropriates images that already belong to the collective memory, images which come from old magazines, art history, cinema and even daily life, however with a refusal of any nostalgic dimension in favour of asserting their relevance in the here and now. His research is full of symbolism and moves by way of associations, in search of compositions or artifacts that may recall something “else” in their form or symbolism: a fluoroscope from the early 20th century, one of the first pieces of radiological equipment, recalls a virtual reality headset, the sacrament of the Eucharist is linked to the representation of pills, whereas human bodies viewed from unusual perspectives almost start to resemble industrial architecture.

In the artist’s creative poetry, the meticulous task of researching and selecting takes on a level of importance that almost transforms the preparation for his works into the work of art itself. The choice of cotton as a pictorial medium is directly inspired by the tradition of tapestry, reflecting the desire to tell stories on fabric - using, however, a poor material, in contrast to the precious materials such as silk, gold and silver that were used in the past.

With the UNO+UNO exhibition, M77 Gallery cements its desire to juxtapose exhibitions of established artists with shows that pay particular attention to the dialogue with up and coming young artists, as in the case of the Robert Fekete’s individual show, *Moving Mountains* (2015).

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication with a text by Michele Bonuomo and will be open to the public from Tuesday 27 February 2018 until Saturday 21 April 2018.

**Press contacts**
PCM STUDIO | Via C. Farini 70 | 20159 Milan
Paola C. Manfredi | paola.manfredi@paolamanfredi.com | T. +39 02 36769480

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Dimitri Agnello** was born 04/01/1995 in Carrara, province of Massa Carrara. He graduated from a classical lyceum and is currently attending the school of painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo. He lives and works in Palermo. In 2016, he won the Premio FAM Giovani per le Arti Visive *[Young People’s Prize for Visual Arts]*. His most recent exhibitions include: *Sichtbar*, Atelier am Eck, Düsseldorf, Germany (2017); *18° Premio Cairo*, Palazzo Reale, Milan (2017); *Premio FAM Giovani per le Arti Visive*, Fabbriche Chiaramontane, Agrigento (2016).

**Ieva Petersone** was born in 1984 in Latvia. In 2010, she finished her Master’s in Pictorial Arts in Riga, a degree she undertook after her graduation from the Academy of Fine Arts of Latvia and an artistic lyceum, spending two seasons abroad with the Socrates programme, first at the Academy of Porto and then in Milan, in the studio of artist Marco Petrus. Over the course of the same years, she exhibited in painting projects in Riga, Porto, Berlin, Weimar, Nuremberg and Paris. After her Master’s, she moved to Milan where she now lives and works. The new environment influenced the artist’s thematic choices, which took shape in her first individual show in Milan, *Catalogue* at the Laboratorio V.I.P. in 2012. In 2014, she was amongst the finalists for the 15th Premio Cairo *[Cairo Award]* at Palazzo della Permanente in Milan. She has participated in Arte Fiera 2016 (Bologna), The Solo Project 2016 (Basel), and SCOPE, Miami Beach 2016 with M77 Gallery.