

ANDREA FESTA

SALA NOVA presents *Mirrors*

Sinead Breslin, Tomas Harker, Emiliana Henriquez, Ania Hobson, Igor Moritz, Zofia Pałucha, Richard Phillips, Alexander Skats, Rafal Topolewski, Xu Yang.

Andrea Festa presents a group exhibition at Sala Nova titled *Mirrors* that brings together the works by Sinead Breslin, Tomas Harker, Emiliana Henriquez, Ania Hobson, Igor Moritz, Zofia Pałucha, Richard Phillips, Alexander Skats, Rafal Topolewski, and Xu Yang. The artists are united by the themes of reflection, identity, and perception. The exhibition explores how portraiture acts as a mirror—revealing both the self and the world around us—as a social documentary.

Historically, portraiture has been the stage upon which the individual negotiates visibility, presence, and identity. The European portraiture tradition has been dominated by aristocratic and bourgeois commissions, where self-presentation was inseparable from power. Yet behind those extravagant requests was also hidden the projection of a personal narrative. The attention towards the figure ‘in front of’ has transformed today into a metaphysical and complex analysis of cultural memory and personal vision.

Mirrors investigates the reflective power of art—not only as a depiction of the external world but as a medium through which inner life and emotional complexity are documented. And most importantly, each self. In this manifestation of one, *Mirrors* welcomes the visitors to follow the gaze of the artworks that speak loudly and dynamically with each other.

Why Must You (2021), by Sinead Breslin, almost mimics that famous smile while softly gazing at her neighbor, Igor Moritz. The man is exhausted by the “Heatwave over London” and, in turn, he stares into the void or maybe has noticed something small in the corner of his Matisse-esque apartment. “Tarantula” by Tomas Harker is the central protagonist of the painting, sitting on the face of a young woman, who seems to be calmly observing the room. *Isolde with Rocking Horse* (2025) is surprisingly studying the scene while the old granddad looks at the kid, bringing forward the contrast of the curiosity and tiredness of life. Between the two is an empty Marie Antoinette-like “Mask”. The journey of surprising accessories does not end with the artwork of Xu Yang, as the white frame elegantly supports the multicultural chaplet designed by Zofia Pałucha—a bold and unapologetic call for self-expression and the joy of uniqueness. The last wall begins with two bright and vivid artworks by Emiliana Henriquez: in the heat of the orange, a woman stares into the ceiling. The composition is already hinting to the viewer the purport of the exhibition as we follow the gradual rises and falls from the forehead to the chin and the neck to the chest and waist, seen in the reflection on the floor. Underneath is a blue duo portrait of a couple caught in the moment of intimacy. The blue-orange couple right next to it are *Red Men* by Ania Hobson; they also seem to be hiding, raking the street under the strict gaze of someone in the shadows. The last artwork presented is by Rafal Topolewski—a self-portrait with the expressive anatomy of still eyes, the chin, and the knife.

The exhibition is on view from the 3rd of October until the 13th of November, 2025, at the address Lungotevere degli Altovity 1, Rome.

andreafestafineart@gmail.com
+39 339 176 4625
andrea festa.com

SALA NOVA presents *Mirrors*

Artists

Sinead Breslin (b. 1986, Ireland) lives and works in Somerset, UK. Her practice spans painting and drawing, focusing on the figure as a lens to explore memory, emotion, and metaphysical states. Breslin transforms personal archives, travel encounters, and folklore into compositions where realism blends with abstraction, and perspective and color are manipulated to evoke tension, temporality, and displacement. Oil paint is central, allowing layered, tactile surfaces that reflect the instability of memory and perception. She has held solo exhibitions at Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome (2021), Here Gallery, Pittsburgh (2021), and LKIF Gallery, Seoul (2023), among others. Her work is included in public collections such as the San Antonio Museum of Art, Hudson Valley MOCA, Xiao Museum, Suzhou, X Museum, Beijing, and the Alex Katz Foundation, New York.

Tomas Harker (b. 1990, UK) lives and works in London. His works address the nature of meaning in conditions of mediated experience and hyperreal saturation. Harker's practice often draws from a variety of image production and distribution systems in an attempt to make sense of a cosmic order becoming increasingly disordered. His paintings reflect the increasing murkiness and confusion of contemporary life, whilst remaining mindful of the dynamics of power benefiting from uncertainty. Exhibitions include *Multiple Choice* Fairytale Ending, The Sunday Painter, London (2023, solo); *New Ancients*, Guts Gallery, London (2023); *The Artist is Present*, Guts Gallery, London (2022); *Apotrope*, Cob Gallery, London (2022); *I haven't been Sleeping*, Screw Gallery, Leeds (2021, solo); *Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, South London Gallery, London (2021); *Third Nature*, Copeland Gallery, London (2021, solo); *A Sea in Suspense*, Bo.lee Gallery, London (2019, solo); *There's something about Painting*, Tatjana Pieters, Ghent (2019); *Cite*, Bo.lee gallery, London (2018); *Syzygy*, Leeds Arts University, Leeds (2018).

Emiliana Henriquez (b. 1986, El Salvador) lives and works in Los Angeles, USA. Self-taught, her practice combines painting and visual storytelling to explore identity, cultural hybridity, and spiritual traditions. Drawing on her upbringing in diverse communities across East and West Los Angeles, Henriquez integrates symbolic imagery inspired by Yoruba, Hinduism, and Sacred Geometry, creating immersive, colorful environments that reflect shared human experiences. Her work often examines the intersections of race, faith, and cultural memory, using fabric motifs and rich color palettes to evoke ritual, narrative, and emotional resonance. Henriquez's compositions fuse influences from Medieval art, contemporary aesthetics, and global devotional practices, inviting viewers to reflect on the subtle connections across cultures. Recent solo exhibitions include *Warm Blue Velvet* (Half Gallery Annex, New York, 2025) and *Philosophia* (Fortnight Institute, 2023), and she has participated in the Armory Show Art Fair (2024). Henriquez has been recognized with awards such as the LA Lakers In The Paint Award (2023) and completed residencies at Fountainhead (2024) and The Macedonia Institute (2023).

Zofia Pałucha (b. 1993, Poland) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and is a doctoral student at the Doctoral School of the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, the city where she lives and works. Recently, Zofia Pałucha has presented her works in a duo exhibition at Promocyjna Gallery in Warsaw (2023), a solo exhibition at Berlinskej Model Gallery in Prague (2021), Piktogram Gallery in Warsaw (2020), a group exhibition at Zachęta National Gallery (2022), and a group exhibition at Wrocław Contemporary Museum (2021). The artist is a recipient of the Jerzy Grotowski Scholarship for 2023.

ANDREA FESTA

Ania Hobson (b.1990, UK) lives and works in London, UK, having graduated from the University of Suffolk before continuing her studies at the Royal Drawing School in London and the Florence Academy of Art. In 2017, she was awarded the Young Artist Award of the BP Portrait Awards, granted by the National Portrait Gallery in London. Hobson's solo exhibitions include: 'SETAREH,' Dusseldorf, Germany (2023); 'Ruttkowski 68, Paris, France (2022); and 'Playing with Fire,' Steve Turner, Los Angeles, CA (2022). Selected group exhibitions include: 'Women Painting Women,' Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX (2022); and 'Personal Structures,' European Cultural Center, Venice, Italy (2022). She has also been presented in the Scope Art Show at the MET Pavilion in 2020, by the National Portrait Gallery and the GAA Foundation at the Venice Biennale in 2019, as well as at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and the Wolverhampton Art Gallery in 2018. Her artworks can be seen in the public collection of Green Family Art Foundation, TX, US, and Marquez Art Projects, FL, US.

Igor Moritz (b. 1996, Poland) creates figurative paintings and drawings that explore human relationships, examining how individuals connect with themselves, others, and their surroundings. Largely self-taught after studying industrial design at Bournemouth University and attending a fine arts high school in Lublin, Moritz blends observational precision with emotional resonance. His work often focuses on intimate, everyday moments, revealing vulnerability, sentimentality, and relational dynamics. Moritz has presented solo exhibitions at Lundgren Gallery in Palma de Mallorca, Delphian Gallery in London, and A.more Gallery in Milan, and participated in group exhibitions and art fairs across London, New York, Paris, Hong Kong, and Mexico City. His pieces are included in collections such as Colección SOLO (Madrid), Museum No Hero (Delden), and the Rad Hourani Foundation (Montreal). Through subtle gesture, careful composition, and layered detail, Moritz examines memory, identity, and the human experience in contemporary life.

Richard Phillips (b. 1962, USA) is a painter and filmmaker whose work explores the intersections of sexuality, politics, power, and media culture. He reinterprets photographic and popular imagery through classical painting techniques, transforming familiar icons—politicians, supermodels, and advertising figures—into objects of scrutiny and reflection. By estranging these images, Phillips critiques the seductive allure of mass media while highlighting its cultural and psychological impact. He earned his BFA from Massachusetts College of Art (1984) and his MFA from Yale University School of Art (1986). His solo museum exhibitions include Kunsthalle Zürich, Kunstverein Hamburg, Le Consortium, Dallas Contemporary, and the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. His films, including Lindsay Lohan and Sasha Grey, premiered at the Venice Biennale (2011) and Brisbane (2012). Phillips' work is held in major public collections, including MoMA (New York), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), SFMOMA (San Francisco), Albright-Knox (Buffalo), Tate Modern (London), Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven), Denver Art Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Henry Art Gallery, Weatherspoon Art Museum, and UBS PaineWebber Art Collection.

ANDREA FESTA

Alexander Skats (b. 1986, Sweden) lives and works in Malmö, Sweden. His painting practice examines the tension between figuration and omission, drawing from film stills, photography, and digital imagery. Skats isolates gestures—particularly hands—recasting ordinary moments to emphasize psychological intensity and the act of seeing. His layered canvases combine technical precision with cinematic sensibility, exploring how digital culture reshapes perception and memory. Recent exhibitions include *Avalanche* (2024), *Tales of Women* at Tang Contemporary Art, Hong Kong (2024), and *The Balladist* at Galleri Thomas Wallner, Stockholm (2023). In 2021, he completed the public commission *Individuals* at Uppsala City Hall. He has received grants and fellowships from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and the Otto and Charlotte Mannheimer Foundation.

Rafał Topolewski (b. 1983, Poland) lives and works in the UK. Combining his architectural background with fine art training at Manchester Metropolitan University and the Royal Academy of Arts, London, Topolewski paints dreamlike, liminal spaces where memory, fantasy, and reality intersect. His oil paintings feature barbed botanical forms, dissolving clock faces, and vacant, glassy-eyed figures, rendered with dry-brush techniques that evoke photographic grain. Drawing on personal archives and digital collages, he balances abstraction and figurative representation to explore the uncanny, the subconscious, and human perception. Topolewski frequently includes self-portraits, highlighting introspection and psychological inquiry. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions at GRIMM, Amsterdam; Alice Amati, London; Tabula Rasa Gallery, London; Lundgren Gallery, Mallorca; and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Topolewski's work is held in the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Longlati Collection, Shanghai, and Simian Foundation, Shanghai.

Xu Yang (b. 1996, China) lives and works in London, UK. She studied Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon College of Arts (UAL) and completed an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art in 2020. Xu's multidisciplinary practice explores identity, sexuality, and culture, blending personal narratives with historical and mythological references, including Rococo aesthetics and her Chinese heritage. Her paintings often feature her own image, confronting viewers to challenge societal constructs and explore the complexity of human nature. Recent solo exhibitions include *Imagine Yourself a Warrior* at Mou Projects, Hong Kong (2023), *Therefore I Am* at Dio Horia, Athens (2022), and *100 Carat Diamond* at Barbican Arts Group Trust, London (2020). Her work has appeared in institutional and group exhibitions at the Wellcome Collection, London (2023), Tank Shanghai (2024), Spurs Gallery, Beijing (2024), and Simon Lee Gallery, London (2022). Xu Yang has been recognized by the Barbican Arts Group Trust and shortlisted for the Contemporary Young Artist Prize.

ANDREA FESTA

SALA NOVA presents *Mirrors*
Artworks



SINEAD BRESLIN
Why Must You, 2021
Oil on canvas
14 1/5 × 9 4/5 in
36 × 25 cm

2800 € + VAT



TOMAS HARKER
Precious, 2021
Oil on canvas
17 7/10 × 15 7/10 in
45 × 40 cm

3000€ + VAT



TOMAS HARKER
Tarantula, 2020
Oil on canvas
17 7/10 × 15 7/10 in
45 × 40 cm

3000€ + VAT



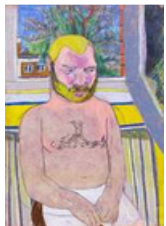
EMILIANA HENRIQUEZ
Tangerine, 2024
Oil on canvas
14 × 11 in
35.6 × 27.9 cm

3200 € + VAT



EMILIANA HENRIQUEZ
Milk the cunt, 2023
Oil On Canvas
11 × 14 in
27.9 × 35.6 cm

3200 € + VAT



IGOR MORITZ
Heatwave over London, 2020
Coloured Pencil on Oil Paint Primed Paper
23 1/5 × 16 1/2 in
59 × 42 cm

2000€ + VAT

ANDREA FESTA



ANIA HOBSON

Red men, 2021
Oil and impasto on canvas
31 1/2 × 27 3/5 in
80 × 70 cm

6100€ + VAT



ZOFIA PALUCHA

Mother Nature, 2021
Color pencil on paper
27 3/5 × 19 7/10 × 4/5 in
70 × 50 × 2 cm

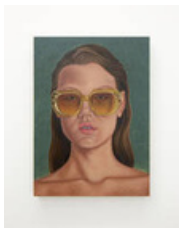
1200€ + VAT



RICHARD PHILLIPS

OLDGRANDDAD, 2000
Charcoal and chalk on paper
23 1/10 × 18 × 4/5 in
58.7 × 45.7 × 2 cm

9000€ + VAT



ALEXANDER SKATS

Sunglasses, 2025
Oil on linen
21 7/10 × 15 7/10 in
55 × 40 cm

4200€ + VAT



ALEXANDER SKATS

Isolde with Rocking Horse, 2025
Oil on linen
39 2/5 × 31 1/2 in
100 × 80 cm

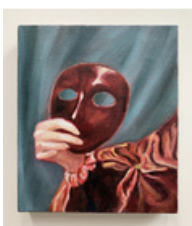
8000€ + VAT



RAFAL TOPOLEWSKI

Eyes between chin, 2020
Oil on canvas
11 4/5 × 7 9/10 in
30 × 20 cm

1500€ + VAT



XU YANG

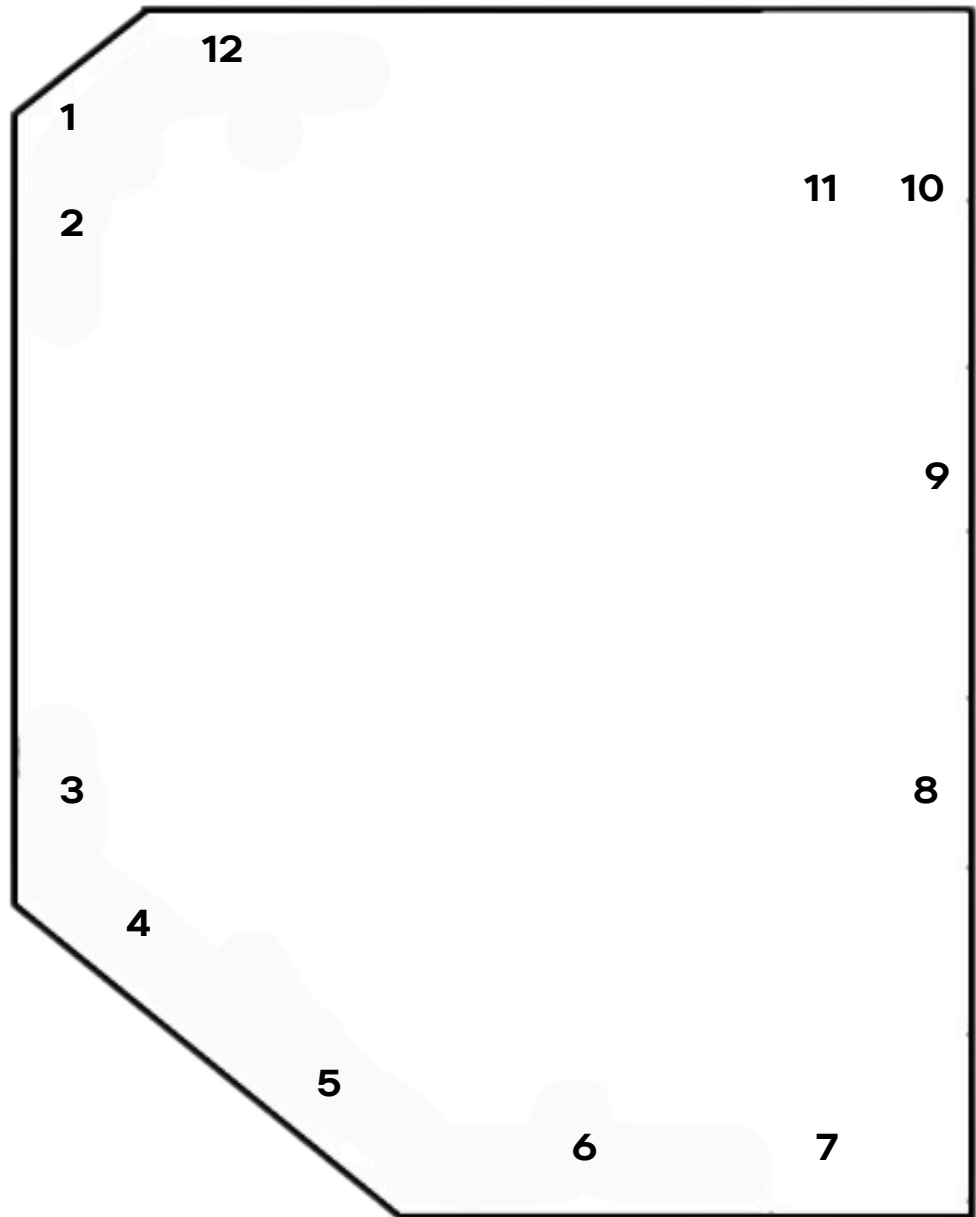
Mask, 2020
Oil on canvas
9 1/10 × 7 9/10 × 1 1/5 in
23 × 20 × 3 cm

1400€ + VAT

andreaestinafineart@gmail.com
+39 339 176 4625
andreaefesta.com

ANDREA FESTA

SALA NOVA presents *Mirrors*
Layout



1. Sinead Breslin *Why Must You*, 2021
2. Igor Moritz *Heatwave over London*, 2020
3. Tomas Harker *Tarantula*, 2020
4. Alexander Skats *Isolde with Rocking Horse*, 2025
5. Xu Yang *Mask*, 2020
6. Richard Phillips *OLDGRANDDAD*, 2000
7. Zofia Palucha *Mother Nature*, 2021
8. Rafal Topolewski *Eyes between chin*, 2020
9. Ania Hobson *Red Men*, 2021
10. Emiliana Henriquez *Tangerine*, 2024
11. Emiliana Henriquez *Milk the cunt*, 2023
12. Tomas Harker *Precious*, 2021