

Simone Rutigliano

JABAL

Curated by Luca Seguenza

Opening: Friday, October 4, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday, October 5: special opening until 11:00 PM for the Night of Culture 2024

A+B Gallery, Corsetto Sant'Agata 22, 25121 Brescia - Room 2

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A+B Gallery is pleased to present *JABAL*, the first solo exhibition by Simone Rutigliano, curated by Luca Seguenza. The exhibition, which will take place in the gallery's spaces in Brescia, consists of previously unseen works created specifically for the show.

Simone Rutigliano was selected by A+B Gallery as the winner of the 2023 Combat Prize in the context of the Gallery Prize, a special award born from a new collaboration with six important contemporary galleries and the independent space SAC Spazio Arte Contemporanea in Livorno. The prize entailed the realization of an exhibition project in the spaces of the different galleries during the 2023/4 season, continuing the dialogue started during the award.

JABAL offers an overview of Rutigliano's most recent artistic research, focusing on human figures in motion, wrapped and intertwined by their own gestures, resembling subjects captured in a long photographic exposure. In these works, the protagonists are never static but emerge in a continuous dance, frame by frame, where movement entangles and intensifies, blurring the boundaries between body and space. The result is a dynamic and fragmented fusion, where the figures seem to escape any dogmatic setting, emerging instead in a more imaginative dimension.

Rutigliano's origins, particularly his hometown Lecce and the Venetian context in which the artist is completing his studies, are present and recognizable in the works. The figures depicted evoke carnival atmospheres and move in a suspended space-time, far from ordinary reality. It is an imaginary, chimeric place where memory and physical image intertwine to shape a parallel dimension, where the boundary between reality and fantasy dissolves.

“CI BALLI SULU NU TE PUEI CURARE”

This phrase echoes a central concept in Rutigliano's work: it is through encounter and sharing, through the union of bodies in celebration, that a form of healing is achieved. In everyday life, the

usual order and rhythm are occasionally interrupted by moments of festivity, which offer the chance to nurture one's identity. During the celebration, space-time is suspended, creating another dimension, where one accesses something deeper than the daily routine.

No one lives alone. Our lives are inevitably intertwined in a web of relationships: familial, friendly, professional, environmental, with real or imaginary beings, and, for believers, also with supernatural entities. In collective celebrations, participants merge into the rhythm of the music, becoming a single pulsating body, united by a common energy. This fusion is also reflected in Rutigliano's paintings, where anthropomorphic traces never present themselves as singular entities, but are constantly interrelated, fragmented, and part of a perpetual movement.

JABAL invites the viewer to immerse themselves in this universe where bodies, memory, and ritual merge in a dance, where life itself finds a form of choral expression.

Simone Rutigliano (Lecce, 2002) lives and studies in Venice, where he is currently attending the Painting course at the Accademia di Belle Arti. His works have been exhibited at A plus A Gallery (Venice, 2023); Magazzini del Sale 3 (Venice, 2023); Martignana Arte Project Room (Venice, 2023). He participated in the 5th edition of "Artefici del nostro tempo" (Mestre, 2024); Premio Nocivelli, 15th edition (Verolanuova, 2023); Combat Prize, 14th edition (Livorno, 2023).