

Press Release

YIGAL OZERI // EUGENE LEMAY

Dual Tones

Opening: Thursday, the 22nd of June 2017, 7 p.m.

Duration of the exhibition: June 23 - September 10, 2017

Beauty, both inner and outer, seems to exist on opposite planes with different qualifiers. Outer beauty is defined by appearance and grace; inner beauty is a product of the mind and senses, which permeate the body and guide one's actions. Yet, the physical is a product of the internal. One cannot exist without the other.

Placed side-by-side, the works of Eugene Lemay and Yigal Ozeri offer a clear vision of beauty's complexity as nothing other than tangles between the internal and external. Two years after *Monochrome* (Galerie Andreas Binder, 2015), the artists return with *Dual Tones*, marking new sympathies for color and the human figure. Color, however, is the vehicle that divides the superficial, serene beauty of Ozeri's work with the chaotic, metaphorical beauty of Lemay's. Color is what guides the eye and allows the gaze to move smoothly over Ozeri's photographic paintings. Color is also what abruptly disrupts the gaze in Lemay's works.

If the sublime in painting is defined as one that evokes a sense of the grandiose, then both artists have managed to meld the real with the sublime. For Ozeri, the sublime evolves from the act of sharpening the person with immense detail, as if under a microscope, so that the model appears with idealized and divine beauty. By contrast, Lemay burrows deep into the membranes of his psyche to create painterly beauty out of the chaos within and ultimately produces visceral, gestural marks to represent the internal—the term *orderly chaos* comes to mind. With brushwork and color as symbols of the internal self, Lemay allows the paint to escape beyond the boundaries of the figure, but only enough to preserve the legibility of form. Each portrait is slightly haunting, very raw, and substantially aggressive, as if one's mind, spirit, and senses have bursted beyond the body's capacity to contain the masses.

*Dual Tones* stands as one collective metaphor for beauty, with beauty as the spawn of inner and outer elements - an amalgam of what coexists in the self and the other. Instead of underscoring breadth in contemporary portraiture, Lemay and Ozeri arrive at the same conclusion about the self through their own practices; one examines the outside presentation of the self, the other is introspective. Here, difference creates wholeness.

The contrasts in texture, brushwork, and forms urge separation, yet the artists find ways to *dissolve differences* - bridge their artistic subjects and spirituality together. In this case, it is by blending ideas of internal and external beauty. To find beauty in nature is to find the sublime as it exists as a harmonious blend between the *seen* and the *felt*.