

M i k o
V e l d k a m p



www.mikoveldkamp.com

Image:

Spring Runner
oil on cardboard
10.75 x 12 inches



Across the world, national belonging seems to be more and more defined by exclusion of other identities. I personally embrace all three of my national identities: Surinamese, Dutch and American. In my work a collapse of time and place happens. Figure and ground become detached and complicated in one place. Yet it is not a "better" alternative in any way. Globalization flattens. The exotic, the cultural novelty and the technological novelty become mundane instantly. My figures mostly pose and are aware of being viewed, interrupting their very own moment, making truly lived moments of unawareness all the more precious and scarce. I believe our cultural richness must be embraced, digested and embodied, not consumed and harvested as cold data, and my paintings must speak through the material, with the touch of the brush, the scale of the mark and sensuality of surface and color to a point of fluency that resonates viscerally and cannot be simulated.

Miko Veldkamp was born in Surinam, grew up in The Netherlands and has been painting mostly in the United States. His work has been shown internationally in places such as Galerie Rianne Groen in Rotterdam, Poppotions in Brussels, Museum van Bommel van Dam in Venlo, The Lewis Center for the Arts in Princeton, Off-White Columns in New York. He was a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam, CCA Andrax in Mallorca, and a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University. He is currently in the CUNY Hunter College MFA program, in New York, projected to graduate in the Spring of 2021.

Image:

Two Fishermen
oil on canvas
36 x 24 inches

from the editor

Happy Autumn season, dear friends! We celebrate this stunning golden time with the release of our 14th Edition!

We've been extremely fortunate to be able to work this time with artist and curator Charlie Roberts who is also a co-founder of o-o LA gallery and traveling show Got It For Cheap (GIFC), whose work appeared on the cover of our previous 9th Edition along with an insightful interview (feel free to read it online on our website). Charlie has created a dazzling selection of works of twenty-six artists amongst the many who have submitted their work for consideration (p. 92 -135) including outstanding pieces by Claudia Keep, Freddie Greis, Miko Veldkamp, Miles Hendricks, Sebastian Burger, Minyoung Choi, Joel Brown, Johnny Izatt-Lowry, Matthew Bainbridge, Marisa Adesman amongst others. We thank Charlie for putting a lot of hard work and attention into his selection process and showing so much positive enthusiasm in helping promote young and emerging, and sometimes underrated, artists through everything he does for the art community.

We enjoy working on our Editorial selection (p. 136-151) and looking through each submission tirelessly, and we must mention how much we are grateful for your generous kind words towards ArtMaze as well as your trust and respect for this project which permeates each application. This time around a wide variety of marvellous pieces and ideas have caught our attention, such as imagination rendered 'life drawings' by Christopher Davison; the bouquet of myth and anecdote in medieval, Renaissance art and architecture in the vivid works of Tom Prinsell; the striking materiality of Nicholas William Johnson's plant motif paintings; the figurative narratives of Nettle Grellier in which she explores ideas of stereotypical British awkwardness around intimacy and the celebration of human connection and tenderness; the objectivity of Mary Laube's works which portray human memory as well as at the same time focusing on the absence of human presence in her depictions; and of course, our cover artist—Jonathan Lux's witty and humorous narratives which depict figures in playful and lively manner portraying themes of relationships, adventure, longing and domesticity.

For this edition's interviewed section (p. 12-91) we've selected five international artists whose work is arrestingly beautiful with underlying exceptional skill. Take a closer look at the work of Ryan Nord Kitchen, his landscapes are nothing like you may expect: unconcerned with the physical likeness and specificity of a place, Ryan is interested in the traces and memories of a landscape that remain with him over time; when the post-card picture has faded. The remarkable visual quality of Emily Ferretti's work blossoms through her depiction of delicate strokes with bold marks, sharp delineation with subtle contouring, illustrative detail with painterly colour-washes, all serving to grasp ideas of landscape genres through biographical memory and imagination. The simplistic and undeniably honest works of weaving and mixed media by Ann Cathrin Høibo are irresistibly attractive in their brilliant materiality and tactility. The coextensive abstract and figurative narratives in Ben Jamie's work are visually three-dimensional and many layered, these complex compositions are build ups of many elements which embody a myriad of references and significations, from the things around him in his Hackney Wick studio space to philosophy and unnameable, elusive emotions. Matt Kleberg's lines and shapes in his enigmatic architectural paintings are not executed according to precise mathematical measurements, but by means of the hand and eye alone. In this, his paintings gesture towards some perfect, overarching pattern, but the means of expression remains firmly grounded in the realm of human deflection.

We are really excited about our upcoming 15th edition, which will mark our anniversary this year. We've teamed up with the brilliant Brigitte Mulholland, curator and director of Anton Kern Gallery to help us accomplish another marvellous selection of works.

If you are interested to submit your work and appear on ArtMaze's pages, please feel free to check out our website for more information (www.artmazemag.com) and hopefully we'll be able to work with you next time!

Yours truly,
Editor and Founder
Maria Zemtsova