

# CHRISTIAN REX VAN MINNEN

**Born 1980, Providence, USA**

**Lives and works in Santa Cruz, California**

"Madrid is one of painting's Holy places, and it's with a mixture of nervous humility and grateful excitement I present La Luz Atrapada at VETA by Fer Francés". Christian Rex van Minnen has produced, during this past year and specifically for his first solo show at the gallery, a body of work that draws heavily on the work of Velázquez, Goya, Sánchez Cotán and the Spanish tenebrist school in general. Van Minnen thus reflects a way of working with painting whose objective was, in his own words, "to artfully manipulate light with brilliant Earth materia suspended in translucent oil". This is precisely the origin of the title of this exhibition: La Luz Atrapada, meaning, the trapped light.

This same concept appears often in the poetic language of hermeticism, alchemy and mysticism, from Hermes Trismegistus to Rumi and Rilke, and it is none other than the light of the soul seeking union with the source. Like the light that moves through paint and oil until it finally returns to the eye.

The paintings that make up this exhibition are the result of a year of inward exploration by the artist, of a "movement through darkness towards light, to find, all of the sudden, an opening of a window and something new". The first works he painted were the two horizontal pieces, which feel, van Minnen expresses, like "the claustrophobic ecstasy and terror of the inner experience of self, the dissolution of boundaries, the deflation and reinflation of ego, and the cognitive dissonance one feels careening thru this murky territory". In the studio, working on these two works and in search of a pictorial language that could express a longing for the transcendental, van Minnen then recalls the work of Ambrosius Bosschaert. In the still lives of flowers in front of windows by this Flemish painter, van Minnen then finds "a near ready-made compositional formula perfectly suited to express this relationship between the three perceived boundaries of self (marble/stone/window), the eye/visual phenomenon (still life) and God/Alien/Other/Spiritual Realm (sky)". If hell, as someone said, is a windowless room, that is precisely what van Minnen finds and begins to paint.

Once finished and in front of these window paintings that are now displayed at the gallery, van Minnen feels a "kind of sudden dis-abstraction about what we are, what our bodies are, what this all is, leaving me feeling at times chilled to the bone, and making the nervy claustrophobic pain of Hallelujah feel like a relatively cozy space. But it is what it is, as above so below, round and round we go".

Christian Rex van Minnen received his BA from Regis University, Denver in 2002. He has exhibited throughout the US and internationally and was recently awarded an Artist-in-Residence at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen. Recent exhibitions include con-figuration, a group exhibit at Postmasters, NY; Juxtapoz x Superflat, co-curated by Takashi Murakami and Evan Pricco at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada and Enantiodromia a solo show at Gallery Poulsen in Copenhagen, Denmark. Public Collections include Denver Art Museum, Djurhuus Collection, The Christine & Andy Hall Collection, Colección Solo, and the Richard B. Sachs Collection.

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## SOLO SHOWS

### 2024

Solo exhibition, VETA by Fer Francés, Madrid Spain (forthcoming)

### 2023

La Luz Atrapada, VETA by Fer Francés, Madrid, SPAIN

### 2022

Coniuctio, Ross+Kramer Gallery, NYC, USA

### 2021

It comes in waves, Nanzuka Underground, Tokyo JAPAN

Skin, Bone, Quinadridone, Adrenochrome, Galeria Javier Lopez Fer Frances, Madrid, SPAIN

Avatars, Avant Arte, Online exhibit

### 2020

West Cliff, Ross+Kramer Gallery, NYC, USA

### 2019

Bloom, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO, USA

In Heaven, Everything is Fine, Ross+Kramer Gallery, NYC, USA

### 2018

UNTITLED Art Fair, Richard Heller Gallery, Miami Beach, FL, USA

Chum Chum Rubby Dubby, AishoNanzuka Gallery, Hong Kong, CHINA

### 2017

Mourning Wood in Liminal Dawn, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA USA

Enantiodromia, Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, DENMARK

### 2015

Golden Memes, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO, USA

### 2014

Glazed and Confused, Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, DENMARK

### 2013

Welsh Rats, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO, USA

### 2012

Fever Dream, Copro Gallery, Los Angeles, CA USA

### 2011

Rainbow Blight, Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA

### 2010

Neo-Grotesque, Roq la Rue Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA

# GROUP SHOWS

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

### 2024

L'or mord l'os, Cadet Capela, Paris, France

Intersections, Aishonanzuka / Aisho, Tokyo, Japan

### 2023

Tutti Frutti 2, PLAN X,

Storage Wars, The Hole

Mixed Pickles 12, Ruttkowski68, NYC

### 2022

45+, Robischon Gallery, Denver

XY, Curated by Sasha Bogojev at Galerie Rundgaenger, Frankfurt

### 2021

My Sweet Doppelganger, Richard Heller Gallery, LA

Shape of an Image, curated by Sasha Bogojev, WOAW Gallery, Hong Kong

Nature Morte, The Hole Gallery, NYC

This Must Be The Place, Villa Schoeningen x Ruttkowski68, Potsdam

Figure 9, curated by Ryan Travis Christian, Western Exhibitions, Chicago

### 2020

Christian van Minnen curates "Blastover", Ruttkowski68, Paris France

Blunt, Gallerie Julien Cadet, Paris France

Mixed pickels 8, Ruttkowski68, Berlin, Germany

Nanzuka Underground: Global Pop Underground, Parco Museum Tokyo, Shibuya, Tokyo

Black and White vs Color, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

Still Human, Coleccion Solo, Madrid, Spain

Juxtapoz and Sugarlift: ME, High Line Nine, New York, NY

### 2019

Mixed pickels 6, Ruttkowski68, Cologne, Germany

Mixed pickels 5, Ruttkowski68, Berlin, Germany

UNTITLED, ART, Richard Heller Gallery, Miami, FL

### 2018

Expo Chicago, Richard Heller Gallery, Chicago, IL

Immersion, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

Realism D'aujourd'hui, Gallerie Julien Cadet, Paris France

Dallas Art Fair, Richard Heller Gallery, Dallas, TX

Pulse Art Fair, Gallery Poulsen, Miami, FL

Mixed pickels 4, Ruttkowski68, Cologne, Germany

### 2017

UNTITLED, ART, Richard Heller Gallery, Miami Beach, FL

EXPO Chicago, Richard Heller Gallery, Chicago, IL

Dallas Art Fair, Richard Heller Gallery, Dallas, TX

Beheaded, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

con-figuration, Postmasters, New York, NY

**2016**

UNTITLED, ART, Richard Heller Gallery, Miami Beach, FL  
EXPO Chicago, Richard Heller Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Juxtapoz x Superflat, co-curated by Takashi Murakami and Evan Pricco  
(Juxtapoz Magazine), Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
Juxtapoz x Superflat, co-curated by Takashi Murakami and Evan Pricco  
(Juxtapoz Magazine), Pivot Art + Culture Center, Seattle, WA  
Dallas Art Fair, Richard Heller Gallery, Dallas, TX

**2015**

Objects Installation, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO  
HEY! 3, Halle St Pierre, Paris, FR  
The Copenhagen Interpretation, Lodge Gallery, NY, NY  
Jokes of Nature, Redline Arts, Denver, CO  
All Types of Characters, Joshua Liner Gallery, NY, NY  
Pulse NYC, Gallery Poulsen, NY, NY

**2014**

Heat! Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, DK  
Annual Art Auction, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass, CO  
Winter Group Show, Jonathan Levine Gallery, NY, NY  
Ducks, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

**2013**

Messin' With The Masters, Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, AZ  
The Gallery Poulsen 10 Years Anniversary Show, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Beinart Collective 2013 Group Show, Copro Gallery, LA, CA  
Varnish 10th Anniversary Show, Varnish Fine Art, San Francisco, CA  
The Wild Bunch, Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, Denmark

**2012**

Texas Contemporary Art Fair, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO  
Unnatural History, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, England  
Against the Grain, Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
SWAB Contemporary Art Fair, Represented by MiTO Contemporary, Barcelona, Spain

**2011**

Cute and Creepy, Florida State Univ. Museum of Fine Art, Tallahassee, FL  
Don't Wake Daddy VI, Feinkunst Kruger, Hamburg, Germany  
Dark Water, Copro Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
What would we wish for in the future?, Biologiska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden  
Another Roadside Attraction, ISE Cultural Foundation, New York, New York

**2010**

Ripe, Seattle Pacific Arts Center, Seattle, WA  
Another Roadside Attraction, ISE Cultural Foundation, New York, NY  
New Realisms, MiTO Contemporary, Barcelona, Spain

**2009**

OCHO: Numero Atomico Global Group Show, ROJO Artspace, Barcelona, Spain  
15th Annual Realism Invitational, Klaudia Marr Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Beth Rudin de Woody Collection

Hall Art Foundation

Denver Art Museum

Djurhuus Collection

Colección Solo

Richard B. Sachs Collection