

# LUDOVICA CAPORIANCO ART CONSULTING

## *"Heatwave"*

*Rashid Johnson, Josh Smith, Petra Cortright, Allison Zuckerman, Sam Jablon, Evan Robarts, Jason Bereswill, Danni Pantel and Roxanne Jackson together with a selection of NFTs.*

Room57 Gallery and Ludovica Capobianco Art Consulting are thrilled to present "Heatwave," an exhibition that combines painting and digital art. By exhibiting digital art together with physical art, we seek to open the possibilities for these two art forms to coexist. Furthermore, the exhibition aims at re-examining the difference between an abstract work of art and a figurative one, bringing together a group of artists whose practice stands at the juncture of abstraction and figuration.

When thinking about painting—the plurality of its expressions and its infinite possibilities—the first distinction that comes to mind is whether a painting is figurative or abstract and we attempt to grasp whether we are looking at a reality we all perceive, or one accessible only to the artist. But this difference that at once seems so cut-and-dried, is actually quite ephemeral, as a work of art often incorporates both elements, whether the figure is hiding behind or emerging from the abstract composition. Questioning the existence of borders/boundaries within the realm of art, the pieces in the exhibition refuse to provide the observer with a clear image of the artist's practice, leaving us free to interpret the works, to peer behind the curtain and witness the fundamental nature of a work of art beyond structures and definitions.

The decision to incorporate digital art within the context of a exhibition showing paintings arose from the singular challenge that digital art poses in relation to existing and being exhibited alongside more conventional forms of art. Painting could be considered the most open form of art: the blank canvas contains innumerable multitudes, and in a similar way, the digital revolution opened the gates to the creation and emergence of parallel realities. There's a lot of uncharted terrain yet to be explored when it comes to the possibilities revealed by digital art and the nascent struggle between the digital creators that built the virtual infrastructure for this art form to flourish, and the art world that is now starting to wrap its mind around the possibilities presented by this innovation, is ongoing.

So far, NFTs have existed mainly within the digital realm, but the increased dematerialization of everyday life due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent near-total elimination of in-person interactions has accelerated the development of virtual communities, and the search for virtual solutions to assuage feelings of isolation have created more possibilities to employ NFTs in the "real" world. By exhibiting artists whose work has, in some way, pushed the boundaries of painting, either aesthetically, conceptually or materially, as well as incorporating digital art within the context of the continuous growth and exploration within the realm of art, we aim at opening a dialogue between these two worlds, so that they may enrich each other rather than disrupt one other.