

Ali Banisadr's Motherboard

Author: Danielle O. Murat



Sprawled across the towering walls of Sperone Westwater, Ali Banisadr's *Motherboard* demands attention. A cacophony of color ascending the serenity of the gallery walls, it provokes the viewer to look closer.

Unapologetic in his execution Banisadr holds nothing back in this series. While similar in content to his previous work, there is a noticeable departure in scope. Like a war on occupied shores, both sides determined for victory, his work speaks, encompassing the many aspects of life in battle.

This series is more textural, the figures larger and the paint strokes more pronounced. There is a brightness of sound translated through the vibrant colors. A vivid sea green permeates many of the paintings, as well as the presence of trickled red drops, perhaps the essence of bloodshed in battle, discreetly interspersed in the chaotic landscape.

In what were previously clear, ethereal skies housing the suspension of a possible peace, now resides a series of staccato, vertical lines, evoking a sense of screeching disturbance as the Universe retaliates against the ensuing pandemonium below.

Tempered in the grand paintings are smaller pieces highlighting the warriors and casualties of battle, offering a more intimate conversation with the subjects of Banisadr's imaginative mind. Prone to synesthesia in the manifestation of his work, he seamlessly translates this phenomenon, stroke for stroke, inviting the viewer to get lost in the visceral sounds seemingly emitted from his paintings.

Whether the war is just getting started, or approaching its inevitable finale, only time will tell. However one thing is for sure - whatever the resolution, if any, Banisadr's work continues to mesmerize.

Motherboard is on view through April 19th. For more on Ali Banisadr and the exhibit visit www.alibanisadr.com and www.speronewestwater.com.

