

PRESS RELEASE

ENGLISH

MICHAEL BEVILACQUA
Rogue Tales: Black, Blue and Sometimes Green

Opening: Thursday, October 29, 8 pm
29 October – 5 December, 2009
Tuesdays to Fridays, 10:30 am to 2 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm
Saturdays, 11 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 8:30 pm

Galeria Senda is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Spain of New York-based artist MICHAEL BEVILACQUA (Carmel, California, 1966), one of the most ascending artists of the current scene of New York. His oeuvre constitutes a review of the Pop culture, combining rock music, luxurious marks and graphic art to achieve a personal and absolutely contemporary work.

Heir of the tradition of Pop Art, Michael Bevilacqua manages to integrate the proper enthusiasm of the consumerism of the mass culture with a meticulous study of modern painting. His work incorporates references and symbols taken from the world of music, fashion, movies, television or contemporary art, recovering and revisiting some elements of his youth in the seventies (cartoon and television series). His pictorial style synthesizes the aesthetics of commercial and figurative art, contributing a new language to abstraction art.

Bevilacqua's new paintings and works on paper command the viewer's attention with their robust palette and a more gestural and raw appearance, away from the crisp, graphic style that dominated his earlier work. These pieces are multilayered, consisting of a combination of different painting techniques -including free-hand brushstrokes, collage or stencil-, which adds depth to his cosmopolitan and imaginary sceneries.

Music has been one of the main influences of Bevilacqua, in particular, rock and punk, which has nourished his work during more than a decade. Specifically, in this set of works the painter quotes his groups and favourite musicians (like Black Sabbath, Nick Cave, Joy Division, Sisters of Mercy and Elliot Smith) in the titles, lyrics or symbols led to the canvases.

Though the works appear abstract, their subject matter is quite personal, taken from the artist's own experiences. The artist's recent travels to Greece inspired much of the aesthetic quality of this exhibition, seen in the pervasive Aegean blue hues and nautical themes. Conversely, this body of work also grapples with darker elements represented by skulls, body parts and poison apples. By meshing these macabre themes with maritime imagery and his references to modern music, Bevilacqua comes to terms with life and death in contemporary times.

Michael Bevilacqua attended Long Beach State University, California, later continuing his studies at the Cambridge College of Art & Technology. Bevilacqua has exhibited internationally including solo shows in Tokyo (2002), Copenhagen (2005 and 2007), Milan (2007), Beijing (2008) and New York (2004, 2005, 2006 and 2009). His works is in numerous public and private collections around USA and Europe, such as: Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Neuberger Berman LLC, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo; Deste Foundation, Athens; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco. He works and lives in New York.

The exhibition has been organized together with Galería Javier López in Madrid.