

TOM POLO

Tom Polo (b. 1985) is one of the most acclaimed painters of his generation in Australia. He uses painting and painted environments to explore how conversation, doubt and gesture are embodied acts of portraiture. Frequently incorporating text and figurative elements, his works draw upon acute observations, absurdist encounters, personal histories and imagined personas. An ongoing interest across his practice is the emotional and performative relationships between people within social, theatrical and psychological space. Through his highly suggestive painted compositions, he offers a window into vast interior worlds, waiting to be explored.

Polo's two works 'an extension giant gestures' and 'soft strokes, easy ride' both explore spaces with his characters, oddballs and misfits. Colourful bodies are submerged within a surface of swirling layers of paint, varied brushstrokes and painting techniques that create a complex surface plane where foreground and background appear to merge, melting from one state into the next. Linger on a threshold of presence and absence, what is painted in and what is painted out, Polo's figures, — looming characters — are both revealed and concealed creating a surface tension that draws attention to the spaces in-between.

Polo was a finalist of the Archibald and Sulman prizes at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney in 2018 and awarded the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship in 2015. He completed residencies at Parramatta Artists' Studios Rydalmere, Sydney, Australia (2019-20); Palazzo Monti, Brescia, Italy (2018); Art Space, Sydney, Australia (2017); the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France (2016) and ACME Studios, London, UK (2016). His work has been included in several group exhibitions in Australia and internationally and placed in public and private collections in Australia, Asia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



an extension giant gestures
2021
Acrylic and Flashe on canvas
182 x 138 cm



soft strokes, easy ride
2021
Acrylic and Flashe on canvas
182 x 138 cm

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com