



EXPO CHICAGO 2023: Pablo Benzo & Stelios Karamanolis

Dio Horia Booth #371

Dio Horia is pleased to return to EXPO CHICAGO, with an exciting two-person presentation, featuring new works by Berlin-based artists Pablo Benzo & Stelios Karamanolis, originally from Chile and Greece respectively. Passionate at finding an audience for underseen visionaries, the gallery keeps on amplifying the voice of diverse under-represented groups, such as minority artists coming from small peripheral countries, ever keen on exploring new grounds.

With figurative paintings immersed into a timeless atmosphere and equally gentle geometrical works bordering abstraction, the presentation involves a series of new works by Benzo and Karamanolis that appear to illustrate the artists' personal journey through art. In a trance-like state, art is essentially a soul flight; As both artists choose to define themselves as eternal art students, always on the lookout for new senses, places and experiences, these works manage to find their way to Chicago, shipping indirectly from Athens, Berlin, Santiago and the land of the poets, symbolizing the nomadic, non-linear representation of their practice and commenting on the history of painting, self-discovery and cultural immersion.

Pablo Benzo has been engaging with still life painting since 2011. As his work moves way past realistic representation, it is more about a strategic interaction between distinct geometric shapes and lines, further accentuated by color. Both studious and intuitive, the artist shares rare glimpses of his studio practice, as well as a singular self-portrait, revisiting his earlier *Self-portrait with imaginary piles*. The oil on linen works presented at EXPO CHICAGO look like a selection of his most private compositions; to top it all, like an art student visiting home at the end of the term, Benzo completed two of these artworks in his studio back to Santiago.

Stelios Karamanolis focuses on a metaphysical abstraction that remains consistent with his own poetry, as the multi-disciplinary artist seeks to translate his words into images and vice versa. His works are abounding with symbols, involving ambivalent figures, both human and non-human. With bright acrylic colors defining mystical circular motifs and geometrical forms, emphasized by color pencil lines, his aesthetic and technical approaches keep disconnecting, fragmenting time and space. Notwithstanding the awe before these fractions, the artist relies on the startling advantages of arbitrary conventions, and our world keeps on turning.

EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art, presents leading international galleries alongside the highest quality platform for contemporary art and culture, hosting over 170 leading international exhibitors at Navy Pier's Festival Hall, on April 13 – 16, 2023. The exposition draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while engaging the region's contemporary art community and collector base.

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Short Bios

— **Pablo Benzo** (b.1982, Santiago, Chile) lives and works in Berlin. Benzo studied graphic design at the University of Chile in 2009. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'Some things last a long time' at Steve Turner, Los Angeles; 'Brief Encounters' at ART021, Dio Horia Gallery, Shanghai, 'Inner Landscapes' at BC Gallery, Basel; 'Some Velvet Morning', Artist residency, Dio Horia Gallery, Mykonos; 'El Ruido Vano en la Entrada del Silencio' at Galería Animal, Santiago; 'The Great Silence of These Distances' at Cass Contemporary, Tampa. Selected group exhibitions include: 'Some things last a long time' at Steve Turner, Los Angeles; 'Manscaping' at The Hole (hosted by superzoom), Paris; 'The Breakfast Club' at Eligere, Seoul; 'After Hope' at Dio Horia Gallery, Athens; 'Tutti Frutti' at Plan X Gallery, Milan; 'East Hampton Hole' at The Hole Gallery, New York; 'Domesticity' at Volery Gallery, Dubai; 'The New Classics' show at C.O.A. Gallery, Montreal. His work has been featured in major cultural media, such as Juxtapoz and Mutual Art, among others. Benzo's work is currently part of prestigious art collections, including Colección Ca.Sa, Santiago; Colección SOLO, Madrid; Deji Art Museum, Nanjing; Foundation Medianoche0, Granada; Xiao Museum, Rizhao.

— **Stelios Karamanolis** (b.1977, Athens, Greece) lives and works in Berlin. Karamanolis is a graduate of the Athens School of Fine Art and the Hildesheim University in Germany. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'Morphology' at Flatland gallery, Amsterdam; 'Fast Paced Collectives' at Eins Gallery, Limassol; 'As we gather. Fast, tireless, quiet' at Flatland Gallery, Amsterdam; 'The Failure of Will' at CAN Christina Androulidaki Gallery, Athens; 'An artist without a concept is like a traveler without a road map' at Kunstraum am Schauplatz, Wiener Art Foundation, Vienna. Selected group exhibitions include: 'Raising the Bar' at Untitled, Dio Horia Gallery, Miami; 'Jubilee X' at Haunt Berlin; 'Encounters in landscape' at Spoiler Berlin; 'Alternate Spaces' at Flatland Gallery, Amsterdam, 'Jelato for all' at Jelato gallery at Mallorca; 'Bed Manners' at Kunstpunkt, Berlin, 'The same sky' at Lepsien Art Foundation, Dusseldorf; 'Painting Today' at Vogiatzoglou Collection, Athens; 'Hope – Kibu – in Japan' at Nerima art museum, Tokyo. His work has been featured in major media, including Frieze, Artviewer and Collect Magazine.

— Presentation info

Pablo Benzo & Stelios Karamanolis

Expo Chicago
Booth #371
April 13 – 16, 2023

Dio Horia Acropolis

5 – 7 Lempesi & 16 Porinou St
Acropolis, Athens, 11742
Tel: +30 2109241382 | +30 2106714827
Email: gallery@diohoria.com

— Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Maja Djordjevic: Theatre of Memories

Solo Show
Dio Horia Acropolis
February 04 – March 30, 2023

Rhys Lee: Sometimes I'm a Tree

Residency Show
Dio Horia Acropolis
April 06 – May 06, 2023

Iliodora Margellos: Histonas (Room of Webs)

Solo Project
Dio Horia Annex
April 06 – May 06, 2023