



ERMES ERMES
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BRILANT MILAZIMI
THEY GRINNED AT US AND SAID GOOD LUCK

OCTOBER 10 – NOVEMBER 13
OPENING OCTOBER 9, 6 – 9PM

A FAKE SMILE

How does Brilant Milazimi look at current events? Stealing the words from an interview that Carol Rama did some time ago, I would dare to answer for him in the same way: with his own little language. Memory has a subtle taste, along with the act of protest that, sharply, declares itself among the details of his paintings. Collapse and Recovery. Crossing or overcoming the drama of a socio-political state, of the remnants left by the war, through art. Brilant Milazimi comes from Kosovo and considers his painting to be realistic. He represents the everyday, the feelings that people do not want to show.

Underwater, a man trapped in a tyre tries to save himself from falling into the abyss. Next to him, the subconscious presents a restless cow, almost a reference to Goya (*The Sleep of Reason Generates Monsters*). On the ridge between life and death, salvation and the death of all hope, the work shows its ambivalence.

I asked Brilant to tell me about his work. In the few words we exchanged, he said, 'I paint smiles'. The smiles, however, are cynical, forced and very often false, exalting a difficulty, indecision and fear of the truth or of admitting the truth. Like masks, halfway between a contemporary art comedy and the intention to amplify a voice, these smiles are often found on the faces of politicians and influential people who try to corrupt the masses, at the same time they are sometimes found on the faces of those who undergo certain proposals and changes. Once again one encounters ambiguity.

text by Lisa Andreani

Brilant Milazimi (*1994, Gjilan, Kosovo), lives and works in Pristina.

He studied painting at the High School of Arts Adem Kastrati in Gjilan and graduated in Fine Arts at the Akademie of Pristina. In 2020 Brilant Milazimi won the Artist of Tomorrow Award at Stacion CCA in Prishtina.

Solo exhibition: (2021) *ERMES ERMES*, Rome; (2019) *Woke*, LambdaLambdaLambda, Pristina. Selected group exhibitions: (2021) *Nothing like home* at LambdaLambdaLambda, Pristina; (2020) *Artist in quarantine*, National Gallery of Kosovo, European House Kosovo; *Keeping the Balance*, Ludwig Museum, Budapest; (2019) *External*, Public Intervention, part of the Hap, National Gallery, Pristina; Gursel Sylejmani Prize, Gallery of Arts, Ferizaj; Pristina Blind Date, workshop/exhibition, LambdaLambdaLambda gallery, Motrat gallery, Kino Armata; Young artists, National Gallery of Kosovo; (2018) *Emerge, part of the Hap*, Destilhostel gallery, Tirana; *You need, We need*, public intervention, Installation/Performance, *Part of the Hap*, at Faculty of Arts, Pristina; (2018) *Emerge*, part of the "Hap" at the Faculty of Arts, Pristina.