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PAN
Ross Simonini

September 9 – November 10, 2023

suns.works is pleased to present PAN, the first solo exhibition in Switzerland by Ross Simonini, an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Los Angeles, USA. The exhibition includes new paintings and drawings, as well as a performance. The new moon (September 14th) will also mark the release of a new musical composition, The Theme of Good Will, and new paintings will be added to the show.

Simonini works across a wide range of media as a painter, writer, composer, and dialogist, and is deeply influenced by synergies between different fields of human expression – often involving his whole body to create visual art. In using all four limbs when working, the artist’s “hand” is both obscured and totalized.

All of Simonini’s marks come from a phrase, repeated to produce the many lines and fields in his work. Every mark is a letter. The phrase may be repeated thousands of times in a single painting. “Repetition is an effective technique,” Simonini says. “It’s good for learning, training, and praying. Making art is a useful way to engage with the learning-training-praying qualities of repetition. When I’m writing music, I listen to a composition hundreds of times over months, and then might perform it for many more years. As I do this, I’m putting those words and sounds into my body over and over and over again. (So what, exactly, am I putting in? I use music as an example because it’s so physical in the way it affects us, but you can apply the same thing to painting. If I work on a large, red painting for 3 months, staring deeply into it, using the same kinds of short motions, what am I programming my body to do?”

With every repetition, operated by hands and toes, Simonini is producing imagery that allows space for a hidden realm to appear: Faces, sounds, scribbles all merge into what the artist considers beings – tricksters and gods, embodying secret meaning, like Pan, the all-being of ancient mythology whose true presence is too expansive for the human mind to conceive. Simonini’s paintings evoke a blend of softness and delicacy, conveying captivating expressions through an atmosphere of figuration and endless pan-narratives that refuse to be reduced.

For the show at suns.works these many expressions of PAN are exhibited as a constellation, in a 12 floor high rise, echoing against a panoramic view.

Artist tour with Ross Simonini and musical performance:
Friday September 8th, 7pm