

Etere

Giuliano Macca

12th December 2024 – 15th February 2025

Opening reception: December 12th, from 4pm to 8pm

Courtesy of GOWEN, Geneva and Giuliano Macca



Atlante, 2024, Oil on canvas, 130 x 180 cm

Etere borrows from the Italian language, its meaning 'Ether' alluding to Aether, the God of Light and a primordial deity born from Erebus and Nyx, in Greek mythology the personifications of darkness and night. *Aether*, relating to 'kindle' or 'blaze', or to 'burn' and 'shine', and thus to notions of the light generated by the darkness, becomes the purest and most uncontaminated light of the universe.

The mythological narratives which Macca routinely develops in his artistic process expand throughout the work. Exploring ancient creation myths, Macca elucidates that *"the true mystery of Aether lies in how he gave rise to the Orphic egg, to "time" and "necessity" which intertwine, almost sacrificing themselves and generating the four elements"*.

In Ancient Greek Orphic tradition, it is from this cosmic egg of Chronos (Time) and Ananke (Necessity) which hatched the primordial hermaphroditic deity Phanes/Protogonus who in turn created the other Gods. As a metaphor of potentiality, the Egg, often depicted with a serpent wound around it, is the pre-creation held within chaos, waiting to become the cosmos. This duality, as a consequence, sets up a conflict found throughout world mythology: the duality of chaos and order, good and evil, light and dark, love and hate.

Drawing parallels with his personal circumstances, the exhibition seizes upon Macca's inner conflicts, in his own words *"the eternal game between these two opposites of darkness and light, but which is present in all of us"*. Such repeated back and forth manifests through the narratives and compositions, often addressing nature and immortality, vanquish and regret. Furthermore, for Macca the cycle of birth and re-birth also reflects a complex process of self and collective awareness, as an integral part of spiritual and historical progression, and the power of consciousness awakening to fight against the falling.

GOWEN is delighted to present a solo exhibition by Italian artist **Giuliano Macca** (b. 1988, Sicily). Following his inaugural solo show with the gallery at artgenève 2024, the presentation unveils a brand new body of work produced by the artist during a recent period in Modica, Sicily. Originally conceived at the artist's studio in Amsterdam, the new works were all executed on the Mediterranean island.

In a return to his native country, working from a former chapel and surrounded by Sicilian Baroque architecture, Macca permits himself to reconnect with his cultural origins, once again becoming immersed in the territory from where his artistic experimentation is derived, and from where the defining elements at the core of his practice are re-examined.



If you save me, 2024
Oil on canvas
160 x 113 cm

Courtesy of GOWEN, Geneva and Giuliano Macca



Beyond, 2024, Pen, watercolor on paper, 236 x 150 cm (each)

The assiduity with which his characters are depicted demonstrates the artist's honest intent to share something which is extremely intimate. Taking inspiration from the past to create a contemporary vision for a new future, he casts bodies, faces and eyes that mingle on backgrounds, often the sea, that recall fire, water, earth and air. Macca paints the darkness and light passing through them, and through himself.

In the words of the artist *"I have always spoken through my painting about what interests the human being, loves, abandonments, joys and hopes, crystallizing them in a timeless time"*.

Giuliano Macca's relationship with classical art is both original and genuine, finding a response amongst a young generation of international artists who use tradition to invent new languages. The appropriation of the art historical canons of the past often reflects shifts in power, perspective, and ideology. Macca's commanding, sincere work, derived in perfect affinity with his native background, has emerged as a relevant voice within the contemporary panorama.

Around twenty works are included in the presentation.



Giuliano Macca was born in Noto, Sicily in 1988 and is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Selected exhibitions: 2024 *Etere*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH; 2024 (solo) & 2023 (group) *artgenève*, with GOWEN, Geneva, CH; 2023 *Revival I - XVIIIe siècle*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH; 2021 *Escape Line II - Drawings and Sculptures*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH; 2019, Museo Diocesano di Padova, Padova, IT; 2017, Scuderie Aldobrandini, Frascati, IT; 2016, MAAM Museo dell'Altro e dell'Altrove di Metropoliz, Roma, IT; 2016 (solo), Tonnara di Marzamemi, IT; 2011 *Artexpo: collettiva dell'Accademia di Roma*, Arezzo, IT. In summer 2023, Macca completed a site-specific installation at the Nuovo Cineteatro Italia di Scicli, Sicily. His work is included in the following collections: MAAM (Museum of the Other and the Elsewhere), Rome, Italy; Raffaele Curi, Rome, Italy; Andrea Guerra, Rome, Italy.

Giuliano Macca has been represented by GOWEN since 2021.