

Press Release:  
1.21.2022 – 10.31.2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Location: 630 Flushing Avenue South Lobby, Brooklyn, NY, 11206

## BLUE

COPE NYC presents "Blue," a multifaceted exhibition with six contemporary artists, curated by Vida Sabbaghi. This is the first exhibition in the 630 Flushing Avenue's South Lobby. "Blue" emphasizes the color's historical connotations and its emotional impact. Throughout history, blue has represented royalty and power, as well as 'blue collar' working-class. It has been associated with harmony, faithfulness, confidence, infinity, and imagination since the discovery of lapis lazuli.

Byron Kim's, *Sunday Series*, visually records decades of the artist's "Sundays under the blue skies" along with written personal narratives. The variation of the color shows how nature affords us an infinitely evolving blue palette. Kim's juxtaposition of text, with the universality of the sky, and the intimacy of these small-scale paintings, invites us to appreciate his thoughts, and ponder our own narratives under the ever-temperamental skies.

Lino Lago's gestures explode over the historically significant themes in his work. His intersection of iconic subjects of classical master paintings, with splashes of contemporary colors, introduces blue in his *Fake Abstract (Blue on Bouguereau)*. The blue used with the figure teases our conscious use of the color to signify aristocracy, and bourgeois, while at the same time, stylistically, the splash of paint contradicts the figurative details.

Sascha Mallon introduces us to her first life size work, the *Butterfly Girl*, who is engaging in her own art. The seated Butterfly Girl is situated in front of the South Lobby's manhole that has the word "water" on it. The blue chalk sprawled on the manhole, surrounded with life-size butterflies, suggests an enchanted fairy tale environment. The *Butterfly Girl's* smile, and whimsical presence, add to this surreal presence.

Mateo's use of Persian rugs has an old-world feel with its distinctive and decorative sophistication. The blue used in the work, *Nahrin*, has intricate designs and symbols that bring the portrait alive and compliment the painted face adorned with jewelry and stylized makeup.

Liam Alexander introduces a triptych of ocean views through a series of videos. The juxtaposition of the ocean with animation, offers the sublime and otherworldly; the digital art is a visualization of the vastness of the ocean and sky with a ship and flying seagulls, in a bottle. Liam Alexander's *Boy in Blue* from his series, "*The Perpetuation in Motion*," inspired this work.

Federico Uribe's creative use of pencils in *Portrait (Blue Hair)* exemplifies his sense of humor. Colored pencils are his favorite medium. While the sitter's expression is stoic, the blue hair hints that he has a playful personality - much like the artist himself.

This is the first iteration of "Blue." Throughout the year we will invite artists, architects, designers, and performers, to share their connection to blue through their creative practices.

(The South Lobby is adjacent to the parking lot located in the back of the building.)

Artists: Liam Alexander (COPE NYC) Byron Kim (James Cohan Gallery) Lino Lago (Madison Gallery) Mateo (Galleries Bartoux) Sascha Mallon (Front Room Gallery) Federico Uribe (Adelson Galleries)

For inquiries on sales, commissions, and tours contact Vida Sabbaghi at: [vida@copenyc.org](mailto:vida@copenyc.org)