



opa projects

"Serious Play"

October 11 - November 22 2025
Opening Reception: October 11, 6-9 PM

Serious Play brings together seven artists who reinvent the line between appearance and truth, lightness and weight, fantasy and memory. Across painting and sculpture, they remind us that playfulness can carry the most serious questions, and that behind every illusion lies a deeper reality.

Anner Cohen reclaims the cartoon world of Alice and Mickey, turning digital images into thickly painted relics that ask what remains real in a virtual age. **Susanne Zagorni** plunges into the raw drama of human desire, where figures appear and dissolve in a storm of color. **Emma Stone-Johnson** floods her canvases with vibrant hues that hover between confetti and cosmos, creating visual celebrations with unexpected depth.

Alexander James transforms personal memory into cinematic fictions, blending past and present into dreamlike fragments. **Adam Parker Smith** tricks the eye with bronze “pool floats” and dolphins that look light and playful, but reveal the weight of permanence.

Two masters anchor this dialogue: **Karel Appel**, whose CoBrA spirit brought childlike spontaneity into postwar painting, and **Frank Stella**, who made geometry sing with rhythm and color.

Together, these artists prove that art can be playful without being frivolous—and serious without being heavy. *Serious Play* invites viewers to look again, to laugh and to think, and to discover how today’s most inventive artists turn illusion into truth.

KAREL APPEL

(1921–2006, Amsterdam, NL)

A co-founder of the CoBrA movement, Karel Appel is one of the most celebrated Dutch artists of the 20th century.

His gestural, expressive style bridged abstraction and figuration, channeling raw vitality into color and form. Appel's career unfolded between Paris and New York, with early support from figures like Michel Tapié and Willem Sandberg.

His works are represented in leading museums, including the Guggenheim Museum (New York), the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), and the Centre Pompidou (Paris).



Karel Appel

Spacious Persons, 1972

Acrylic on canvas

35 x 45.5 inches – 88.9 x 115.6 cm

Price upon request

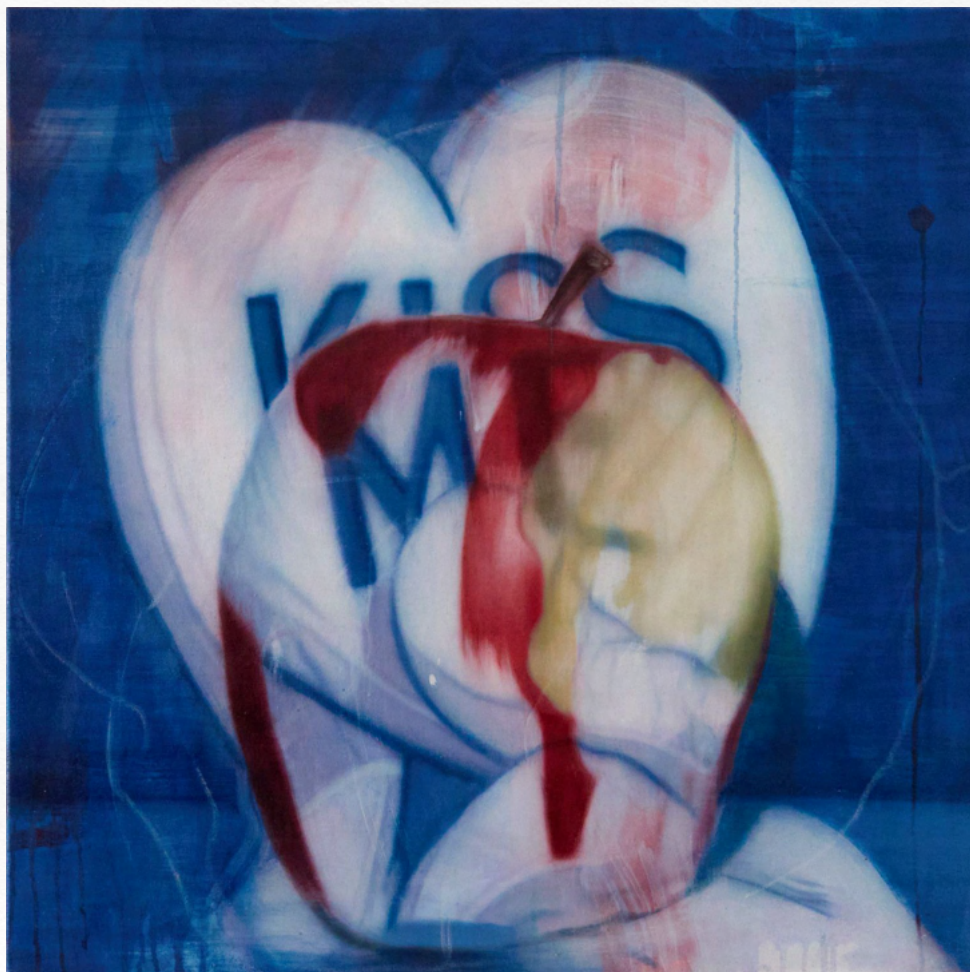
ANNER COHEN

(b. 1997, Berlin, Germany)

Anner Cohen explores the porous boundary between physical and digital realities.

His multi-stage process transforms photographic and coded images into richly painted canvases, where the materiality of oil painting collides with post-digital imagery. Through themes referencing cartoons and cultural icons, Cohen investigates how memory and embodiment persist in a disembodied era.

His works have quickly gained attention among European collectors and are included in several emerging collections focused on post-digital art practices.



Anner Cohen

Kiss Me, 2025

Oil on canvas

31.5 x 31.5 inches - 80 x 80 cm

Price upon request



Anner Cohen

Painting The Roses Blue, 2025

Oil on canvas

29.5 x 43.3 inches - 75 x 110 cm

Price upon request



Anner Cohen

It Aint Polite To Point

Oil on canvas

39.3 x 39.3 inches - 100 x 100 cm

Price upon request

ALEXANDER JAMES

(b. 1993, London, UK)

Alexander James paints with a diaristic lens, turning personal memory into myth.

His works combine fragmented figuration and abstraction in pastel and electric tones, building narrative storyboards that blur truth and imagination. By layering moments of his daily life with inherited family history, James creates a sensory archive of identity.

His paintings have been exhibited in London and internationally, with works entering prominent collections of contemporary British painting.



Alexander James

Dual Grace, 2025

Oil and acrylic on canvas

39.3 x 39.3 inches - 100 x 100 cm

Price upon request



ADAM PARKER SMITH

(b. 1978, New York, USA)

Adam Parker Smith is celebrated for his playful yet rigorous sculptures that mimic inflatable forms — balloons, pool floats — while being cast in durable materials such as bronze and resin.

His practice destabilizes perception, revealing the hidden weight behind seemingly frivolous surfaces.

Smith has exhibited widely, including at The Hole (New York), Honor Fraser (Los Angeles), and Sho Contemporary (Tokyo). His works are part of major museum collections such as the Brooklyn Museum and the Times Museum in Guangzhou.



Adam Parker Smith

Contrapposto Pool Float (life-size), 2025

Resin, aluminum, marble, steel, urethane

60 x 28 x 12.5 inches - 152.4 x 71.1 x 31.7 cm

Pedestal: 6 x 32 x 20 inches - 15.2 x 81.3 x 50.8 cm

Price upon request



Adam Parker Smith

Contrapposto Pool Float (small), 2025

Resin, aluminum, marble, steel, urethane
30 x 14 x 6.5 inches – 76.2 x 35.6 x 16.5 cm
Pedestal: 32 x 11 x 11 inches – 81.3 x 28 x 28 cm

Price upon request



Adam Parker Smith

Narcissist, 2025

Resin, aluminum, urethane, high-polished steel

22 x 24 x 22 inches - 55.9 x 61 x 55.9 cm

Price upon request

FRANK STELLA

(1936–2024, Malden, MA, USA)

Frank Stella was a pioneer of post-war abstraction, pushing painting beyond the canvas into sculpture and architecture.

From his early “Black Paintings” to his monumental shaped canvases and later 3D explorations, Stella combined geometric rigor with narrative dynamism.

His work is represented in nearly every major modern art institution worldwide, including MoMA (New York), the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and LACMA (Los Angeles). Stella remains one of the most influential figures of late 20th and early 21st century art.



Frank Stella

Le Pourfendu, 1984

Mixed media on canvas, engraved
128 x 129.1 inches - 325 x 328 cm

Price upon request

EMMA STONE-JOHNSON

(b. 1982, United Kingdom)

Emma Stone-Johnson is known for her buoyant, lyrical canvases, where vivid gestures and surprising color harmonies evoke both natural and digital atmospheres.

Working with pigment, oil, ink, and acrylic, she creates layered surfaces that oscillate between opacity and transparency, echoing textile structures. Her paintings, at once ethereal and grounded, reference poetry, the Scottish Highlands, and the visual saturation of contemporary life.



Emma Stone-Johnson

It laps the sides, lapis tides, 2022

Pigment, ink, liquid aluminium and acrylic on canvas

78.7 x 118.1 inches - 200 x 300 cm

Price upon request





Emma Stone-Johnson

The light doesn't just touch one area of the field, 2024

Ink, pigment & acrylic on canvas
70.9 x 70.9 inches - 180 x 180 cm

Price upon request

SUSANNE ZAGORNI

(b. 1973, Heimstetten, Germany)

Susanne Zagorni's paintings navigate the space between chaos and calm, abstraction and figuration.

Drawing from personal memories and psychological depths, her canvases invite viewers into vibrant, emotionally charged worlds where figures emerge and dissolve. With bold mark-making and color, she examines the masks we wear and the liberation found in reflection.



Susanne Zargoni

Fels, 2025

Acrylic and oil stick on canvas
59.1 x 66.9 inches - 150 x 170 cm

Price upon request



Susanne Zargoni

Untitled, 2024

Acrylic and oil stick pen on canvas

47.2 x 31.5 x 1.8 inches - 120 x 80 x 4.5 cm

Price upon request



Susanne Zargoni

Striptease, 2024

Acrylic oil and artist marker on canvas
47.2 x 70.9 x 1.6 inches - 120 x 180 x 4 cm

Price upon request



Susanne Zargoni

2024

Acrylic and oil on canvas

59.1 x 51.2 x 1.6 inches - 150 x 130 x 4 cm

Price upon request



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"A New Contemporary Art Hub in Miami"

7622 NE 4 CT, Little River, 33138 Miami

contact@opaprojects.com

+1 516 807 5419

opaprojects.com