



GIALLO!

Lydia Pettit | Scandeborgs

9-24 September 2022

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9–11 September 2022

Opening reception: 9 September 2022, 5–8pm

Trafalgar Avenue (London)

23–24 September 2022

Closing reception: 23 September 2022, 5–8pm

Trafalgar Avenue presents *GIALLO!* A collaboration between artist Lydia Pettit and artist duo Scandeborgs (Stefano Colombini and Alberto Albanese). Rife with violence and vivid colors, breathtaking sets and mystery, Italian thriller-horror genre 'Giallo' has served as visual inspiration for artists embracing its aesthetics to discuss politics, psychosexual violence, gender roles and fear. In this exhibition, Pettit and Scandeborgs use the same props and model (Pettit), and employ the characteristically dramatic 'Giallo' color palette of stark reds, gold, blues, and black in tribute to their love of the genre.

Unpacking the dichotomy of the villain and the victim, Pettit builds on her current body of work assigning avatars to different sides of the self, using her own image and the tropes of horror. Portraying a fearful babysitter answering the phone - *the call is coming from inside the house* - Pettit simultaneously assumes the role of a knife-wielding slasher, adorned only in black leather gloves, embodying the consequences of repressed anger and sexual desire. Her male collaborators stand in as targets of the killer's anger, subverting the source material. Pettit's paintings explore the multifaceted nature of living with trauma - both an exaggerated expression of rage towards the structures that allow for gendered violence, and an illustration of the residual fear that results from victimization.

Alongside Pettit's paintings, Scandeborgs present a complementary vision of 'Giallo', one filled with magic realism. A golden figure inhabits a nondescript liminal space, providing an alternative perspective to the dichotomous victim/villain character roles. Scandeborgs' large photographic prints invite the viewer to engage with the subject matter through a voyeuristic lens, whilst their cinematic approach to image making opens up questions around the narrative context of these violent scenes. The shiny gold statuesque nature of the subject elevates her to the status of icon - a monumental presence whose intense gaze casts a mortal spell.

GIALLO! is an ensemble of works celebrating the concepts integral to Italian Horror, gleefully basking in camp fantasy and decadence. The collaborators sink their teeth into the characters often explored in the genre, and ask the viewer which role appeals to them most - Victim, Villain, or Voyeur?

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Lydia Pettit (b. 1991) is a painter from Towson, Maryland who makes paintings and textile works that explore trauma, body image and self-identity. Using herself as a model, Pettit questions how the female image is registered and accepted and, in the process, addresses the complex impact of the objectification of women within society. At the same time, her work provides a direct and unmediated insight into her own struggle, a narrative of self-empowerment resulting from personal traumatic life experience. Works in oil, embroidery and quilting portray the body with domestic motifs to represent a haunted house, filled with specters of the past, touching on the disorientation and horror of living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pettit attained her BFA at the Maryland Institute College of Art (2014) and her MA at the Royal College of Art (2020.) She has exhibited with Galerie Sebastien Bertrand (Geneva,) White Cube (London,) Galerie Judin (Berlin,) Guts Gallery (London,) and Timothy Taylor Gallery (London).

Scandeborgs (artist duo (Alberto Albanese (1992, Milan) and Stefano Colombini (1992, Milan)) are Italian image makers and directors living in London. Through their idiosyncratic color palette and attentive approach to character building, they explore a range of fictional narratives within their photographic universe. Scandeborgs' practice investigates the concept of liminality, subverting traditional character stereotypes through their distinctive queer lens. Notable projects and commissions include editorial cover stories for *Vogue Italia*, *La Repubblica* (featuring Marina Abramović), and *Time Magazine*. Scandeborgs have exhibited internationally at Triennale di Milano, Red Hook Labs (NYC, Amsterdam, Oslo), Armani/Silos (Milan), and with TAGLI (London, Stromboli).