

SOCO GALLERY

DOUGLAS MELINI *INTO THE WOODS*

March 11 – April 24, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 6-8PM



Image by Lydia Bittner-Baird, courtesy of the artist and SOCO Gallery.

Charlotte, North Carolina (March 11, 2020) – SOCO Gallery is thrilled to present “Into the Woods”, an exhibition of new works by artist Douglas Melini. This is the artist’s first solo exhibition with SOCO Gallery. The gallery is hosting a public opening reception this evening from 6-8PM, and an artist talk with Maria Brito, independent curator and art advisor, on Thursday, March 12 from 11AM-12PM.

Influenced by an unlikely combination of Minimalism, pattern, and decoration, Melini investigates color, space, and the “abstract and pictorial nature of making an image”. He challenges how the audience views his works by opening up the visual space and distorting horizon lines. Adhering to the Bauhaus maxim “form follows function”, his artwork creates a pause for the viewer, allowing and encouraging a moment of contemplation.

For his exhibition, “Into the Woods”, Melini has created six paintings and twelve collage pieces. Inspired by the history of the lush tree and mushrooms grown in New Jersey Pine Barrens, the collages celebrate the cyclical and symbiotic relationships within the forest. The mushrooms, sourced from a dizzying array of field guides, are personified and presented larger than life. The vibrant and transparent watercolor connects the mushrooms to each other and to the surrounding world.

The colorful abstract paintings are constructed with reclaimed wood sourced from tobacco barns in North Carolina and feature layers of oil on linen and a textured build-up of acrylic stain and sealant. The natural material contrasts with the foraged wood to create two vastly different ways of interpreting visual spaces, one natural and one assembled. This theatrical juxtaposition further captures the viewer’s attention, establishing a portal to another world. Together, the paintings and the mushroom collages create one harmonious, natural biosphere.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Douglas Melini (b. 1972, American) received his BA from the University of Maryland in 1994 and his MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 1997. Melini has exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, Oregon (2018); 11R Gallery, New York, New York (2017); Feature Inc., NY, NY (2009-2014); Minus Space, Brooklyn, New York (2009); Ursula Werz, Tübingen, Germany (2005); Rocket Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2004, 1999); and Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, California (1998); among others. In 2008, Melini was awarded a Painting Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Melini's work has been reviewed and featured in *The New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Time Out New York*, and *Artcritical*, and is included in private and public collections worldwide. He is represented by Van Doren Waxter, NY, NY and SOCO Gallery, Charlotte, NC. The artist currently lives and works in New Jersey.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

SOCO Gallery is a contemporary art space and bookshop based in Charlotte, North Carolina. The gallery provides a thoughtful platform for contemporary art to be experienced, discussed, and acquired. SOCO Gallery produces a range of exhibitions, and represents artists working locally, nationally, and internationally. The gallery specializes in assisting private collectors, institutions, and corporations to build their collections with museum-quality artworks from emerging to established artists.

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