

## Julien Marinetti: Expressions Unveiled

December 14 – February 14, 2024  
315 Grant Avenue  
San Francisco



Julien Marinetti, Untitled, Oil on Canvas, 52 x 82 inches

San Francisco - Gefen is pleased to present "Expressions Unveiled," the latest collection of artworks by the renowned artist Julien Marinetti, showcased at its flagship location, 315 Grant Ave. in San Francisco. Running from December 14th to February 14th, this exhibition marks Marinetti's first-ever solo show on the West Coast. Prepare to be captivated by Marinetti's thoughtfully curated selection of sculptures and the debut of his mesmerizing paintings.

Renowned for his dynamic and versatile artistic vision, Julien Marinetti stands as a luminary whose artistic endeavors seamlessly traverse the realms of sculptures and paintings, embodying an untamed expressionism. His creative well draws deep from the heritage of tribal art, embracing the rich legacies of African and Oceanic artistic traditions. This vibrant fusion seamlessly intertwines with contemporary artistry, echoing the liberated tonal expressions of revered figures like Matisse, Picasso, Fernand Léger, and Basquiat.

Marinetti's artistic finesse mirrors a harmony akin to classical and modern aesthetics, intricately balancing lines, vanishing points, and perspectives. In contrast to prevalent contemporary portraits devoid of anchoring horizons, his pieces find grounding in foundational elements, evoking a sense of equilibrium reminiscent of pre-Renaissance artistry.

Marinetti's technical prowess introduces deliberate distress, akin to the intentional markings found in the works of Basquiat or Picasso. These purposeful imperfections emerge from an impulsive yet deliberate engagement with the creative process, integrating tools like engraving styli and brushes. This fusion of creative spontaneity forms an integral and intentional facet of his paintings, a deliberate interplay of tribal heritage and contemporary freedom entwined in each stroke.

Marinetti's artistic identity weaves a complex tapestry, marrying tribal aesthetics with contemporary liberties, all underpinned by intentional choices and an instinctive connection with the artistic process itself. This collective exhibition promises to encapsulate the very essence of classical modernity, offering viewers a harmonious interplay of perspectives that defines Marinetti's distinctive artistic vision.

**Julien Marinetti** (b. 1967, France) grew up in Paris's Saint-Germain-des-Prés district, along the banks of the River Seine. He inherited his taste for culture and knowledge from his father, a photographer, and from his mother, who ran a school of theatre and dance. He began salvaging, recycling and tinkering with old objects, out of which he created his first sculptures. When not sculpting, he spent his afternoons at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière, a Paris art school specializing in live models, where he studied the nude form and French academic drawing methods. After a brief spell of just a few days at Paris' Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts (National School of Fine Arts), Marinetti was determined to make his own way as an artist. He continued learning and perfecting his mastery of painting and sculpting techniques, but also of engraving, ceramics and stained glass. He showed his first realistic bronze sculpture, the bulldog Doggy John, at the Galerie LC in Paris, which was promptly sold within the hour. Doggy John rapidly became an icon and must-have item, and potential collectors were put on a waiting list. Marinetti created a series of collages using front pages from the International Herald Tribune newspaper, then a series of tributes - notably to Keith Haring and Andy Warhol - with a mix of collage and painting techniques. His sculpture became the preferred medium for his own painting, or what he termed "the syncretism of art."

**Gefen Gallery** embarked on a transformative journey. With our inaugural exhibitions, we endeavored to showcase international emerging artists alongside more established figures of Contemporary and Modern Art. Through the unwavering support of collectors, artists, supporters, and the dedicated gallery staff, this journey has grown and flourished over the years. Our expansion now encompasses three distinctive locations.

Within our artistic realm, we curate a diverse range of mediums, encompassing painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, and video. Our aim is to nurture the connections that bridge emerging talents with more established artists, fostering a harmonious dialogue between different creative epochs. Our roster features over twenty international emerging artists. In parallel, we represent esteemed artists, each imprinting their unique essence onto our collective artistic narrative.

Since our inception in 2018, our unwavering commitment has been to offer foundations and art enthusiasts access to a meticulously curated selection of Modern and Contemporary artists. This commitment finds its expression in our thoughtfully designed exhibitions across all our locations and

at art fairs. Yet, our role transcends that of mere curators; we stand as collaborators with collectors, aiding them in building extraordinary art collections. Furthermore, we take pride in facilitating special projects and the creation of large-scale, site-specific sculptures that enrich both public and private spaces. Our dedication remains unswerving: to bring the pinnacle of Modern and Contemporary artistic expression to our collectors with the highest levels of integrity and discernment.

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