

## **Théo Viardin**

### *Distant Echoes*

Sept. 16th - Oct. 2nd, 2021

Samuele Visentin is pleased to present *Distant Echoes* - a solo show by French artist Théo Viardin. The show is his first in the United Kingdom and it will be presented in the Georgian townhouse at 3 Fournier Street in London, UK. The exhibition includes 11 works on linen.

Théo Viardin's oil paintings explore the modes of representation of emotion, depicting surreal humanoid figures that engage in intimate and melancholic relations. Colossal and fragile, these figures flare up in burning reds and darken in sharp blues, reflecting and attuning to the light of the canvas around them. Ideas of race and gender don't apply to their comprehension, whether it is because these concepts were never part of the picture or because they evolved to embody all and none of them.

The scenes presented showcase narratives of melancholic intimacy in the context of a tightly-knit community. Théo Viardin identifies his characters as "the last living humans", imagining their story at each subsequent painting: how would they behave and what feelings would define their relationships when the end is looming? The colour choices facilitate the understanding of their existential moods, shifting from warmth to coldness.

The color palette and the use of light are as important to storytelling as the dynamics at play: they set the stage and mimic the states of mind of the actors in front of them. Light glows on their skin and functions as abstract background for their tribulations, whether they are shielding from the intensity of the Sun (*I might hear the distant echoes*, 2021) or they are holding on to each other through a shiny cord (*Hold it until the end*, 2021).

Through a narrative-based approach, the artist paints snapshots of a distant world where life moves slowly and notions of physical closeness and emotional attachment dictate the pace of its unraveling.

Théo Viardin is a self-taught French artist (b.1992) based in Paris, France and he is represented by Gallery L21, Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands.