

Conversing in Abstraction

Caroline Jackson & Darin Cooper

September 16 - October 3, 2022

Samuele Visentin is proud to present *Conversing in Abstraction* - an exhibition presenting works by British artist Caroline Jackson and American artist Darin Cooper. The show aims to put into visual dialogue two artists from different paths of life and with distinct artistic styles, creating points of contact and contrast within the realm of abstract art today.

Caroline Jackson's art takes shape by means of composite applications of colour akin to the unpredictability and freedom of organic growth. The painterly elements of her works merge, untangle and make up a stratum of forms fighting their way to the front of the canvas. In focusing on the materiality of paint, Caroline Jackson guides the viewer towards tactile traces, where thick chunks of colour are sometimes applied straight out of the tube. The artist treats paint like a tamer would a beast, shunning absolute control in favour of an understanding of its nature, so that harmony is reached not by enforcing strict discipline, but by virtue of a providential sequence of brushstrokes.

If Caroline Jackson's abstraction protrudes outwards, composite and entangled, Darin Cooper's dives inwards, acting as a window into a cosmos of melting colours, where recognisable symbols recount the history of Black Southern Culture. References to religion, hip hop, family and the legacies of American slavery abound in the artist's oeuvre, especially in the context of lineage, memory, and mourning, which coincide with erasure in consequence with slavery. Working primarily in acrylics, he achieves a watercolour-resembling look by rubbing alcohol to disintegrate parts of the original pigment. He then collages this foundation with referential prints to complete the intended image. His signature style allows Cooper to stage his interpretation of the various mechanisms of spiritual release Black people created for themselves throughout history.

Caroline Jackson (b.2000, UK) is a British artist and a Slade'er graduate (class of 2022). Darin Cooper (b.2000, USA) is an American artist currently pursuing his BFA at the School Of Visual Arts in New York (class of 2023).