

OCTOBER 2023

SOLO SHOW

JOAQUIN VALDEZ MACHER

MINI SOLO SHOWS

AMBER KINGI

CAITLYN TAYLOR

NECTOR

SEAN EDWARD WHELAN

SILAS

19 Karen Contemporary Artspace will host its final mixed format exhibition of 2023 featuring six artists from around the globe. Showing concurrently alongside five Mini Solo Exhibitionists is artist [Joaquin Valdez Macher](#), who will be making the trek from Chicago to Mermaid Beach Australia, to open his Solo Show titled "Happy Place".

Valdez Macher is driven by line and striking colour. His work is illustrative yet, rare in this style, imparts a depth of narrative that is seamlessly transferred and subtly emotive. With grabs of both still-life and genre paintings, this body of work has us fully engaged, bouncing enthusiastically from one happy place to the next.

Featuring a degustation of a full body of their work, artists [Amber Kingi](#), [Caitlyn Taylor](#) and [Sean Edward Whelan](#) (all from Aus), as well as [Nector](#) (from Colombia) and [Silas](#) (from Netherlands) showcase up to six works each. Playing with aspects of scale and surrealism, figures and faces, together these series of shows create momentum like a herd of wild horses on the bolt.

In true 19 Karen fashion, the event is once again sponsored by Australian Brewers; Young Henry's, with entertainment by The James Street Preachers.

Opening night is Saturday 14th October, 5pm-7pm with all shows open to the public in the gallery until mid-November.



## HAPPY PLACE SOLO SHOW

### JOAQUIN VALDEZ MACHER

*"My paintings are a celebration of colour and light. I use a wide range of pastel hues to create dreamlike and evocative images. Lines are clean and precise patterns are diverse and my compositions are balanced and harmonious.*

*I work in acrylics on canvas, and I often draw inspiration from a happy place or moment, as well as interior spaces or old black and white photographs that capture stories."* – Joaquin Valdez Macher

Joaquin Valdez Macher is a self-taught artist based in Chicago. With an educational background in print and design, and graduating with First Class Honours, Joaquin's paintings demonstrate influence from elements of line and striking colour. His subjects are illustrative, however unlike their graphic-art counterparts, Joaquin's work imparts strong narrative that is seamlessly transferred and highly emotive.



### THE CARD PLAYERS

Acrylic on canvas | 152.4 x 101.6 cm | \$9200

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### MERENDOLA

Acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4 cm | \$8200

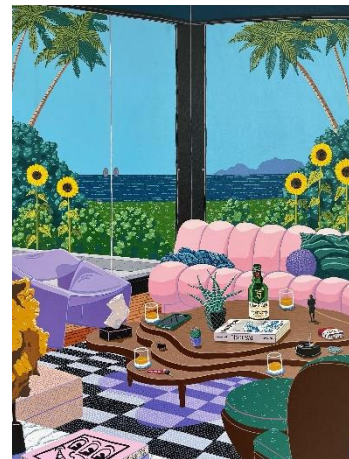
[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### DINNER IN NAPOLI

Acrylic on canvas | 101.6 x 127 cm | \$8500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### I DON'T SMOKE

Acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4 cm

**SOLD**



### OCEANFRONT

Acrylic on canvas | 91.4 x 91.4 cm

**SOLD**



### WILD BLUE

Acrylic on canvas | 91.4 x 91.4 cm

**SOLD**





### HANG OUT

Acrylic on canvas | 152.4 x 127 cm

**SOLD**



### REMOVE BEFORE FLIGHT

Acrylic on canvas | 152.4 x 127 cm

**SOLD**



### SOBREMESA

Acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4 cm

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### TABLE FOR ONE

Acrylic on canvas | 60.9 x 76.2 |  
\$4700

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



## ADORN | AMBER KINGI

*"I went into this exhibition not wanting a specific theme, but to rely on my creative intuition to lead the process; instead creating from instinct, having fun and playing with patterns. There's still a lot of texture in this body of work and I tried my hand at florals. It didn't work out initially and I had to approach the work from a different perspective resulting in florals that are more structured, unlike my figures which free flow. This experimentation provided me with a good introduction to incorporating nature in my compositions and something to practically develop in future.*

*'Adorn' seemed fitting in relationship to the embellishments and patterns on the subjects, with the synergetic implied meaning that the paintings themselves 'adorn' the spaces they fill."* - Amber Kingi

Amber Kingi (Australia) is a self-taught artist who relies on her intuition and experimentation to create work that is infused with beauty and joy. The artist believes that her practice lead methodology allows her freedom to create work that is unrestrained by the confounds of academia, embracing process that is led by an aesthetic eye, passion and play.

Kingi has a strong affinity with fashion which transfers to her characters and subject. Her penchant for fashion sees her work evolving from decorative, graphical and figurative to cross boundaries into the socially popular and even satirical. Even so, the artist retains her signature whimsy, stealing pops of colour and inspiration from her environment like the Bower bird, making vivid worlds of people, moments and fictitious scenes come alive on canvas.



### FLORAL POP

Acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4 cm | \$4200

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### TULIPS

Acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4 cm | \$4200

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### COOL CATS

Mixed media on canvas | 121.9 x 121.9 cm | \$4900

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### READ TO ME

Mixed media on canvas | 121.9 x 121.9 cm | \$4900

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### FRIENDS

Mixed media on canvas | 121.9 x 121.9 cm | \$4900

[VIEW ONLINE](#)





## EVOLVE | CAITLYN TAYLOR

*“Cacti are not only adaptable, but beautiful.”*

*To date, 1500 species of cacti have been discovered, averaging a lifespan between 10 to 200 years. Interestingly, cacti do not grow naturally in Australia, yet the plant has successfully evolved to thrive in our harshest environments. Despite this, the references for this exhibition were photographed at the Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne botanical gardens.*

*With this collection of work, I aimed to experiment and develop my use of colour, composition and scale. Whilst painting, I saturated the colours of the cacti fruit and flowers to accentuate the cacti’s natural beauty. Stylistically, a simple composition was chosen to draw attention to the detail of the subject. I purposefully placed these otherworldly plants in new, unusual environments to experiment with scale and surrealism.*

*Creating this body of work has taught me to, like the cactus, remain resilient and adaptable. With enough effort and time, you can create something beautiful.” – Caitlyn Taylor*

Caitlyn Taylor (Australia) strives to create hyper-realistic depictions of her subjects to capture natural beauty. She works in a variety of mediums, primarily using pencil and oil paint to achieve a high level of detail.

Caitlyn brings her individual perspective to realism, demonstrating that it is much more to her than simply replicating what can be seen. She weaves story suggestively and subtlety into her work by intentionally placing unexpected subjects together. Her work has been featured in a range of art prizes including the Clayton Utz Art Prize held by Lethbridge Gallery. She was also the winner of the Inaugural Morris Art Prize.





**DOWN THE LINE**

Oil and acrylic on canvas | 96 x 96 cm  
| \$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**KEEP GOING**

Oil and acrylic on board | 61 x  
45.5 cm

**SOLD**



**TAKE CARE**

Oil and acrylic on canvas |  
161 x 96 cm | \$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**SOMETIMES I WONDER**

Oil and acrylic on canvas | 96 x 96 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**NOW AND THEN**

Oil and acrylic on board | 61 x  
45.5 cm | \$3500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**GAMES OF LUCK**

Oil and acrylic on canvas |  
161 x 96 cm \$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



## DOMESTIC MEDITATIONS | NECTOR

Nector Mejia, born 1977, lives and works in Colombia.

Nector has pursued university studies in fine arts and art education. His work encompasses drawing, sculpture, and painting, with pieces showcased at numerous festivals, fairs, and exhibitions in various countries. An autobiographical element is at the core of his work, stemming from an investigative process that begins with the study of everyday experiences in his life.

Nector's work aims to provoke reflection on the surrounding world and common experiences. Several themes are constants through in his work, such as memory, absence, and self-awareness.

His work is a collage of experiences, dreams, and memories. The paintings, drawings, and objects are a fusion of surrealistic art and metaphysical painting. The spaces, places, and scenes are not strictly representations of reality but rather a collection of memories, dreams, and experiences rendered as images, laden with metaphors, analogies, and ambiguities.



### **BOWL**

Acrylic on canvas | 80 x 80 cm | \$3000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### **COFFEE MAKER**

Acrylic on canvas | 80 x 80 cm | \$3000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### **YARD**

Acrylic on canvas | 80 x 80 cm | \$3000

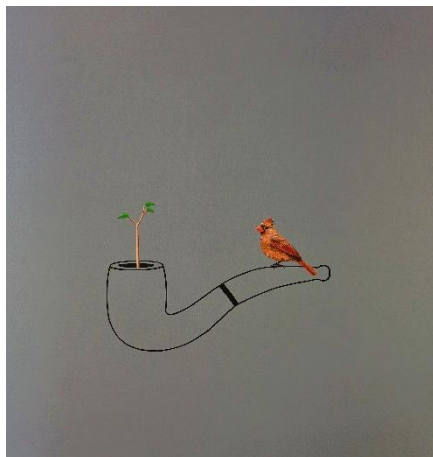
[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### **HAT**

Acrylic on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | \$4000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### **PIPE**

Acrylic on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | \$4000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### **KITCHEN CUTLERY**

Acrylic on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | \$4000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)





## MIDNIGHT VIGNETTE

### SEAN EDWARD WHELAN

*“Midnight Vignette is a short series of paintings based on the experiences of Whelan during a period spent abroad. Through his process of colourful reconstruction, the connections between the time, place and people present in those moments, originally captured in photographs, have been warped and reconfigured into 5 diverging stories set at midnight.*

*Stark, upward lighting intensifies the theatrics of the isolated figures, like they have been caught in the headlights of a car, or freeze-framed in the strobe lights of a dance floor. The hyper-colours that make up the figures and the depth of the blacks that envelop them having an effect like the trope in film where the main character has a sudden realisation or moment of clarity.” – Sean Edward Whelan*

Whelan’s process of reconstruction, reconfiguration and selective isolation raises questions about why these subjects have been chosen to vignette. What possible narratives are we being invited to speculate about here? What will unfold in the next instant? Is there some darker narrative lying beneath the colourful presentation? Like a sketch at the beginning of a chapter in a book, these single frames - glowing with smiles, alluring and slightly absurd - are only a preview. A guiding light at the entrance.

Sean Whelan is a pop-surrealist painter of precise, colourful, and conceptual figurative paintings. His work draws inspiration from Western and Eastern pop-culture, pop-sociology and old-world art, and explores a worldview filled with tensions and contradictions.



### RENDEZVOUS

Acrylic on canvas | 103 x 103 cm

**SOLD**



### THE DRESSING ROOM

Acrylic on canvas | 103 x 103 cm | \$6600

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### NIGHT PARK

Acrylic on canvas | 103 x 103 cm | \$6600

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### AN INVITATION

Acrylic on canvas | 103 x 103 cm | \$6600

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



### THE PARTY

Acrylic on canvas | 103 x 103 cm | \$6600

[VIEW ONLINE](#)





## TRAVALLAZ | SILAS

*“My paintings often tend to tell a story, but they don’t always need to be more than engaging portrayals that make you stand still for just a moment. Life shines through the eyes and this is where I try to capture my character’s emotion. It can instantly be recognized when looked upon, whilst at the same time silently asking you to consider an increasing number of other stories or sentiments.*

*The characters I portray are fictional. I create my sketches in Photoshop by using cut outs of facial parts of various existing models and shape them into a new personage.*

*Inspired by cinematography and fashion photography, the composition of my paintings are of great importance. A first layer painted with mixed materials or a paper collage forms the basis on my canvas. After this I use a technique of applying transparent layers of acrylic and oil paint, to finish it all off in merely oil paint.*

*When the vibrancy of shapes and background are in harmony with my colour palette, when my character has come to life and all details have been worked out, then for me, the job is done.” – Silas*

Contemporary artist Silas Schletterer was born and raised in Middelburg, The Netherlands. Inspired by films and fashion photography, he chooses young women and men as subjects. He tells stories of beautiful, yet lonely beings in a quest for perfection and happiness. The composition of his paintings often tends to be cinematographic, with nature claiming a central role.

By combining facial parts of different models and reassembling them via his own unique interpretation, Silas creates portraits of distinct personages that are ethereal, almost alien in nature.

Silas was a member of Dutch art collective Antistrot from 1997 – 2010. This collective showed all over the world including Tokyo, Miami, Dublin, including two solo exhibitions in New York and San Francisco. The artist featured in Blend Magazine and was included in a list of important painting purchases worldwide, making his work a sound aesthetic and financial proposition for 19 Karen clientele.





**TRACES OF DAENA**  
Acrylic on linen canvas | 90 x 120 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**SOLISSA**  
Acrylic on linen canvas | 90 x 120 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**BOY AND THE HAWK**  
Acrylic on linen canvas | 90 x 120 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**INGER**  
Acrylic on linen canvas | 90 x 120 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



**RYDER**  
Acrylic on linen canvas | 90 x 120 cm |  
\$6500

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



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Tue - Thurs: 9am – 4pm | Fri - Sat: 10am - 2pm



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contemporary artspace