

Guglielmo Castelli at Villa Medici Art Club #38

March 1 to May 19, 2024

Curator: Pier Paolo Pancotto

With the support of Mendes Wood DM



Guglielmo Castelli, *Le Jardin des Refusés*, 2022, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and Mendes Wood DM.

For the next event in the *Art Club* cycle, Villa Medici invites Turin-based painter **Guglielmo Castelli**. Drawing his inspiration from literature, theater, and art history, Guglielmo Castelli develops a world where human and animal figures, landscape fragments, natural elements, and scenes from everyday life mix and conflate. Through his figurative painting, with its magmatic flat tints and fluid subjects, he sets narratives into perpetual, practically cinematographic, motion.

The setting for these stories is the gardens of Villa Medici: five works by Guglielmo Castelli are on display in the Atelier Balthus, the Studiolo of Ferdinando de' Medici, and the Gypsotheque (a former workshop now housing plaster casts of statues, busts, and reliefs). These include four oils on canvas: the diptych *I Believe in the Nights* (2021); *Buon Vento* (2023); *Le Jardin des Refusés*, and *The Mutiny's Space* (2022), as well as a tapestry made from recycled plastic and natural threads, *Dorofoco. Bonotto for a Collection* (2020). This group of works takes visitors on a chromatic journey, with each piece holding a riddle to be solved.

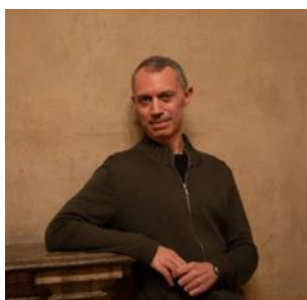
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Guglielmo Castelli is represented by **Mendes Wood DM** and **Rodeo London / Piraeus**.

Since 2016, the *Art Club* cycle has presented the work of international contemporary artists in the form of visual and artistic interventions in the historic spaces of Villa Medici such as its loggias, gardens, and the Gypsotheque. Integrated into the guided tour of Villa Medici, these interventions renew and enrich the experience of a place that is both contemporary and of historical heritage, conducive to unexpected artistic dialogues. Recent guests include Caroline Mesquita, Rosa Barba, Jean-Marie Appriou, Giuseppe Penone, Katinka Bock, Namsal Siedlecki, Achraf Touloub, and others.



Guglielmo Castelli, born in 1987, lives and works in Turin. His solo exhibitions include: Venice, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa (2024); Berlin, Künstlerhaus Bethanien (2018); and group shows: *Diario notturno*, L'Aquila, Maxxi (2023); *Mutanti sotto un cielo che implode*, Turin, OGR (2023); *Italian Painting Today*, Milan, Triennale (2023); *A Lover's Discourse*, Aspen, Art Museum (2023); *Espressioni con frazioni*, Turin, Castello di Rivoli (2022); and the Quadriennale, Rome (2020).



Pier Paolo Pancotto has curated the *Art Club* exhibition program at Villa Medici since 2016. Previously, he curated the Fortezzuola exhibition cycle at the Museo Pietro Canonica in Rome in 2016-2018, as well as exhibition projects at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art in London, the National Museum of Fine Arts in Tirana, Albania, the Lateral Art Space in Cluj, Romania, the Museo Diego Aragona Pignatelli Cortes in Naples, the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna in Rome, the Museo H. C. Andersen, Rome, Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome, Nomas Foundation, Rome, Museo Correr and Museo da Palazzo Mocenigo, Venice and La Fondazione, Rome. His publications include: *Artiste a Roma nella prima metà del '900 (Women Artists in Rome in the First Half of the 20th Century*, 2006); *Arte contemporanea: dal minimalismo alle ultime tendenze (Contemporary Art: From Minimalism to the Latest Trends*, 2010); *Arte contemporanea. Il nuovo millennio (Contemporary Art: The New Millennium*, 2013). Portrait of Pier Paolo Pancotto by Daniele Molajoli.

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The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici, founded in 1666 by King Louis XIV, is a French institution that has been housed since 1803 at the Villa Medici, a 16th-century villa surrounded by a seven-hectare park on Mount Pincio in the heart of Rome. A national public institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Culture, it fulfills three complementary missions: to welcome artists, creators, and art historians of the highest caliber in residence for long stays of one year or more; to set up a cultural and artistic program that integrates all fields of the arts and creation aimed at a broad public; to conserve, restore, study, and make its built and landscape heritage, as well as its collections, known to the public.

French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is directed by Sam Stourdzé.

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