

VISITOR CENTER

233 LIBERTY STREET, NEWBURGH NY 12550

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On the occasion of Upstate Art Weekend 2023, [Visitor Center](#) and [Camp Gallery](#) are delighted to announce *The Divine, The Passion, & The Magic*, an upcoming all-female group exhibition featuring works by contemporary artists Clara Fialho, Michela Martello, and Sooo-z Mastropietro.

The exhibition aims to decipher, undermine, and celebrate motifs historically associated with the female gender. Namely, the exhibition considers the archetypes of "The Saint," "The Femme Fatale," and "The Enchantress," each of which have devalued women for centuries through demonization, sexualization, and objectification.

The exhibition aspires to challenge gender hierarchy and promote women's solidarity by investigating what it means to be a female artist in an industry that has historically favored male artists. Each artist engages the titular archetypes intuitively, and the exhibition must be discovered through personal experience. A range of works by the participating artists will be on view, including paintings, wall sculptures, works on paper, and interactive installations.

This is the first collaboration between Visitor Center and Camp Gallery and their owners/ directors, Eva Zanardi and Melanie Prapopoulos.

On view at Visitor Center from June 24 through August 19, 2023.

About the artists:

[CLARA FIALHO](#)

In her abstract paintings, Clara Fialho explores the relationship between form and color to illustrate theoretical concepts and spaces. Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and now based in New York, Fialho works with different types of painting and drawing implements, combining pigments, shapes, and textures in compositions of various sizes. The artist, who is influenced by surrealism and magical realism, considers color and form as tools that map invisible forces and realms. Fialho describes the major themes of her work as the "unconscious, impermanence, relationships, unity, the universe, nature, dreams, and love."

[MICHELA MARTELLO](#)

Born in Grosseto, Italy, Michela Martello is a multidisciplinary artist whose research is influenced by both traditional and contemporary sources. She has been living and working in New York City since 1996 where she often collaborates with Pen & Brush, an association that supports women's work in literary and visual art. Martello's works are humanistic, accessible, and consistently characterized by her use of symbolism. A perpetually curious and interdisciplinary artist, she brings together the traditional and contemporary influences of a variety of techniques, media, themes, and cultures to create art that achieves a universal language of aesthetics that merges centuries and crosses cultural bounds.

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[SOOO-Z MASTROPIETRO](#)

Sooo-z Mastropietro, a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, holds a BFA in Fashion Design and Textile Design. An artist to the core, Sooo-z lives the very art she explores through painting, mixed media, and textile engineering. Often, she experiments in specific genres which offer varying technical practices or satisfies a creative burst. Themes often develop as observations of current events in her life. Her voice as an artist is constantly evolving through the need to experiment, yet her calculated and spirited execution remains. Her current work under the moniker *Knitiot Savant* is a unique fiber art form utilizing a triumph of fabric tubes, nuggets, and shreds which she has appeared nationally in juried exhibitions and internationally in publications.

Visitor Center is open on Saturdays from 1 pm until 6 pm and by appointment. For more information about the exhibition or to schedule a visit, please contact Visitor Center via email: Attila.King@visitorcenter.space