

# Wadström Tönnheim Gallery returns to VOLTA NYC

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023

We are proud to present a solid booth with the following artists **Matias Di Carlo** (from Argentina, based in Spain), **Claudia Doring Baez** (from Mexico based in NYC/US) and **Johan Wahlstrom** (from Sweden based in NYC/US). **Matias Di Carlo** is showing new sculptures made in aluminum, **Claudia Doring Baez** and **Johan Wahlström** are presenting new paintings on canvas. In addition we will offer a special performance by the New York based artist **Ellen Francis**.

**Matias Augusto Di Carlo** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1978. His Italian roots are imprinted with a long history in artistic iron smithery. Very soon, Matias became the fourth generation to continue creating with metal and fire, taking it to the level of a sculptural language of his own. Since 2002 he lives and works in the province of Malaga (Spain) and in his studio he creates small pieces to large scale works. [www.matiasdicalro.com](http://www.matiasdicalro.com)

*“Matias Di Carlo’s works can best be described as playful minimalism. Having worked through a highly disciplined rigour of maquette making, sketching and understanding the complexities of form and their interaction in relation to the body, he has provoked a visual form of mathematics and has managed to show how it occupies volume in three dimensional space. While much iron and steel as a material appear at first impenetrable and inert, Di Carlo has mastered, through long periods of alchemic experimentation, to introduce color and warmth to the otherwise stark and uninviting surfaces. The patina that Di Carlo applies to his Corten steel works are as much a reflection of the rustic colors of the landscape of southern Spain as it is a conversation with the material itself, allowing it to speak freely and in constant change. As Matias Di Carlo has set the course to emerge as a contemporary sculptor, he has been able to free himself from the constraints of utility as well as academia to arrive at an intuitive and direct methodology in the creation of emotion through solid form. Through long periods of meditation in and with nature, many times alone in the wilderness for months at a time, Di Carlo emerges with a holistic catalogue of thought, which is not only apparent but also physically present in the rigorous forms of his sculptures. As with all things in nature, there are hidden languages and truths. The universe itself begins with a simple instruction and constantly strives towards greater forms of complexity. Looking closely at the sculptures of Matias Di Carlo, one has a sense that many of the shapes and forms have already understood that the whole is always made up of the sum of its parts”.* Bjorn Stern, Curator & Art dealer

**Claudia Doring Baez**, born in Mexico City, is a New York City based painter. Claudia Doring Baez’s paintings are animated by a reverence for art history and literature, rendered in a contemporary, expressionistic vocabulary. Baez engages in conversations with the work of some of the great artists from the past centuries that she resonates with — she selects, re-creates, and adopts details from images to create her own language. Baez’s work is steeped with references that range from German Expressionism to Marcel Proust, Brassai, the rich renditions of Titian to abstracted versions of the work of Fra Angelico and Johannes Vermeer along with inspirations from contemporary artists such as Cindy Sherman.

Exhibitions include shows in NYC, Mexico City, Aqua Art Fair, Miami, ZonaMaco Art Fair, Mexico City, Scope Basel Switzerland, Lehman College NY, La MaMa Galleria NY, Ethan Cohen Gallery, Galeria Emma Molina, and she’s featured in publications such as Art News Magazine. [www.claudiodoringbaez.com](http://www.claudiodoringbaez.com)

**Johan Wahlstrom** from Stockholm, Sweden based in NYC since 2018. His work focuses on the human condition and political landscape, especially in the context of this difficult and interesting moment in history through which we are all living.

*I see myself as a “post-post-modernist” painter of truth, exploring the psychological and spiritual toll of some of the most pressing social, economic, and political issues in our society. In our ever-accelerating media cycle, we process vast amounts of textual information daily, but often it is an iconic image that endures. For every crisis, triumph, and political intrigue, there is often an image that puts a human face to the news, capturing our*



*empathy and becoming shorthand for the event itself. Faces serve as a barometer of the news—how we should respond, how we should feel, how much we should care—they symbolize the times and political systems that we live in, to human monstrosities and their conflicts for dominance. My paintings explore both our emotional entanglements with current events and the space these images hold in how we collectively understand them. I draw my inspiration from my previous career in music, reflected in the use of layered density of color and composition. I work to keep a constant feeling of alienation in my paintings, which in tandem with my color palette connects to a long history of a gloomy and mysterious aesthetic from the Northern Hemisphere.*

For more information and press photos contact:

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Address and opening hours for Volta NYC 2023: 125 WEST 18TH STREET

Wednesday May 17 | 5pm – 9pm

Thursday May 18 | 12pm – 9pm

Friday May 19 | 12pm – 8pm

Saturday May 20 | 12pm – 8pm

Sunday May 21 | 12pm – 5pm

More information at: <https://www.voltaartfairs.com>

*Wadström Tönnheim Gallery's mission is to examine the idea of the painterly, be it also through related media such as photography, sculpture, installations, video and drawing, in order to understand and to promote the direction of painting and its relevance to contemporary visual culture.*

*WTG is owned and operated by Mattias Tönnheim. [www.wadstromtonnheim.se](http://www.wadstromtonnheim.se)*