Martin Lukáč – Watching Over

Tönnheim Gallery, Calle Valencia 17, Madrid (Metro Lavapiés by Doctor Fourquet)
19th of November – 20th of December 2026
(Inauguration on Thursday 19th of November at 18.30 – 21.30h)

Watching Over (…you…)

The New York based artist Martin Lukáč is returning to Madrid with his second solo show at Tönnheim Gallery. Martin has been working with Tönnheim Gallery for around three years now and has participated in several art fairs and exhibitions during this time. A warm welcome to our last exhibition of the year on Thursday 19th of November at 18.30–21.30h.

Watching Over is a new series of oil paintings by Martin Lukáč, rooted in the emotional and visual language of childhood, memory and the 1990s. The works move between abstraction and expressionism, drawing on the raw immediacy of early Expressionist painting and the freedom of Abstract Expressionism.

A recurring silhouette of Michael Jordan, remembered from Lukáč's childhood in Bratislava, appears alongside childish figures, animals and the recurring *Rat Race* motif. As noted in *Generazione Critica*, repetition is an important part of Lukáč's practice, allowing recurring motifs to develop through variation and transformation.

The title *Watching Over* points to a state of attention and care, while leaving its meaning open.

Martin Lukáč, born in 1989 in Slovakia, is a visual artist based in New York City. In 2013 he graduated from the Technical University in Košice with a Bachelor's degree in fine arts, and in 2016 he received a Master's degree in painting from the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague. His work and artistic process are known for spontaneous, intuitive expression, drawing on abstract expressionism. They incorporate pop culture elements and graffiti aesthetics. His paintings come to life like strange characters from the world of comics. Lukáč often thinks in series, using the same motif several times, which he then repeats systematically in different variations on his canvases until he has exhausted them. This repetition and reduction of forms not only formally define Lukáč's work but also underpin his practice. The selected motifs are not merely subjects of his paintings; through their repetition, they transcend their initial depiction and ultimately serve as the medium of the painting itself.

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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.

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