PIERMARQ*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Cosimo Casoni

25 May - 11 June
23 Foster St, Surry Hills NSW
OPENING: Thursday 25 May, 6-8PM

PIERMARQ* is pleased to present _Celebration of Life_, an exhibition of new work by Italian artist, Cosimo Casoni. This is Casoni's first solo exhibition at PIERMARQ* in Sydney.

Celebration of Life consists of 12 new works in the artists' signature mixed media of oil paint, enamel, acrylic, fingerprints, pencil and occasional skateboard marks on canvas. Using a combination of classical painterly techniques and unconventional, improvised mark making, the new body of work portrays charged sexual imagery with inspiration as diverse as Etruscan tombs, Old Master still life and Pornhub. The exhibition explores themes of eroticism as celebration—with images of stylized figures alongside realistic objects and intuitive, abstract finger painting, linking the images to the direct and physical act of creating. In works such as _Still Life (with grapes)_, the pornographic content is less explicit, with implied eroticism through food or other symbols. The still-life recalls Dutch masterpieces, revealing the historical links between the artists' classical treatment of form, light and shadow.

Working at the intersection of high and low culture, Italian artist Cosimo Casoni blends characteristics of surrealism and post-graffiti aesthetics with traditional painting techniques. Approaching mark making in a variety of styles, his use of a skateboard as medium was influenced by skating as creative expression – a subculture Casoni has been immersed in since his youth. Looking for meaning and new formal geographies, Casoni creates images that live in balance between stillness and movement, reality and illusion.

Born in Tuscany, Casoni lives and works in Maremma, Italy. The artist studied Visual Arts and Painting at the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA), Milan. Casoni has exhibited widely across Europe and will be included in a group exhibition at Museo Navi Romane di Nemi in Rome, later this year.