

Rob Mango: Civilization, Surrealism, & Humanity

SPIVA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Main Gallery

222 West 3rd Street

Joplin, Missouri 64801

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July 30 – October 29, 2022

Opening reception: Friday, July 29, 2022 | 5:30-7:30pm

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Joplin, MO: *Rob Mango: Civilization, Surrealism, & Humanity* opens Friday, July 29, 2022 with a reception for the artist from 5:30 - 7:30pm. This solo exhibition spans almost four decades, showcasing a selection of both flat and sculpted paintings. Mango's uniquely contemporary Baroque sensibility of vibrant colors, richly textured surfaces, elaborate construction, sweeping movement, figurative distortions with a dash of Surrealism, courses through depictions of the figure from representational to abstraction. A nuanced aesthetic pleasure tempts the viewer while a narrative mix of art references and personal life engages in a determined conversation.

In *Amiss in the Abyss*, 1989, and *The Strong Jester*, 1998, Mango appropriates the image of the jester with its long tradition as a representation of the artist's alter ego. In the earlier two dimensional painting the jester/artist confidently stands in front of the abyss with a fully loaded brush unabashedly engaged in the urgency of painting. Ten years later in *The Strong Jester* a wall of undulating interlocking metallic shapes encroaches, his costume is unraveling and his head is turned away with a loaded brush held low. The painting, the very notion of which Mango seems to be questioning, is now part sculpture and part painting. The wall and figure are now forms constructed of foam that are wrapped in painted canvas and attached to a support. Later paintings of women showcase Mango's more recent immersion into sculpted paintings. The textured angular background of brilliant colors and

metallic pigments interact in a dynamic dance of form and light at once dissecting the form and celebrating its movement.

Mango's numerous solo exhibitions include the Duane Street Gallery, Dillon Gallery and Neo Persona Gallery in New York; Galerie L'Orangerie, France; Radost Gallery, Czech Republic; N.A.M.E. gallery and Walter Kelly Gallery in Chicago, and the Krannert Art Museum University of Illinois. He is included in well over 100 corporate, private and public collections.



Strong Jester © Robert Mango



Amiss in the Abyss © Robert Mango

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