

**Mud, Remembered**  
**Elina Ansary & Adi Blaustein Rejto**  
Tutu Gallery  
April 23 - June 5, 2022



Feline-run Tutu Gallery is honored to announce an upcoming exhibition, *Mud, Remembered*, on view from April 23 - June 5, 2022, featuring Elina Ansary and Adi Blaustein Rejto. For this Spring exhibition, Elina and Adi will show paintings and painted installations made from found objects and foraged paints. By turning the semi-public gallery space into a ground for domestic memories and private nightmares, *Mud, Remembered* explores the possibilities of constructing dream-like narratives when processing past events.

Both Elina and Adi employ abstraction when working with memory and identity. Elina operates within the tradition of Western figurative painting and Persian miniatures, adding non-linear points of time and space to the narrative when constructing her images. In addition to utilizing found objects to bring specific intimate energies from an unknown stranger, she repeatedly revisits her childhood home in San Francisco and her mysterious encounters with wild animals in her theme. The duality in her work, both images and objects, anonymous and personal, speaks to her experience of embodying Afghan and American identity. Adi paints in Brooklyn, NY, and forages pigments from the Catskills where they grew up and from contaminated land in NYC. Through oil painting, pigment foraging, and paint-making, they expresses personal experiences of trauma, grief, gratitude, and the joy and ecstasy of boundless imagination inside the rigidity and overwhelm of political struggle. With an intuitive process that guides the unfolding of the image that morphs in and out of abstraction and representation,

Adi converses with their past self, family members, and even strangers at faraway places suffering from various catastrophes.

Private pains are the starting point of the construction of self, a feeling of dissociation from the world around that each of us carries on a daily basis but cannot remember. They are to be avoided in small talks, television-watching, and professional networking. Nevertheless, they scream at us by hiding in plain sights, in dreams, in discarded materials, and in the works we create. By opening up our home and admitting that this has never been a place of total peace and safety, Tutu hopes to bring honesty to the restlessness of healing endeavors, the numbing and escaping, and the process of creation and the trying-to-understand that invisibly hold us close without the need for an explanation.

**Adi Blaustein Rejto** is a biochemist-turned-painter. They has attended Habitable Spaces Residency at Kingsbury Texas. This is their first two-person show.

**Elina Ansary** holds a BFA in painting from the Pratt Institute. She has attended the Bilpin International Ground for Creative Initiatives Residency in Bilpin, Australia as well as Chautauqua Institution School of Visual Arts Residency in Chautaupua, NY. Her works were included in exhibitions at The Bootleg Mansion, The Glove, Lagoon NYC, and FiveMyles Gallery in Brooklyn.

**Tutu Gallery** is a feline-owned alternative space in Brooklyn, NY, founded in July 2019 by Tutu (cat) and her human April Zhu. The gallery is dedicated to artists who are self-trained, immigrants, or students. The gallery has been featured in Harper's BAZAAR China, BOMB Magazine, Whitehot Magazine, and the Costal Post.

For inquiries please contact April Zhu at [tutugallery.meow@gmail.com](mailto:tutugallery.meow@gmail.com)