

GUZZO PINC

Fantasia

November 14 - December 30, 2021

# Devening Projects

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Madison-based artist Guzzo Pinc once humorously declared that his paintings look like an exploding pinata in comparison to Allison Wade's minimal sculpture. Yes, you certainly feel that zealous spirit in his paintings; what you don't see is anything random or ill-chosen. Carefully modulated shapes, refined colors and complex patterns come together in these paintings to reveal the structure and order one might find in textiles from Latin America and Majolica pottery from Italy where his family has roots. There is a looseness to his process and a deft touch of mark that shows how fully developed and efficient his process. The buoyancy of these formal choices certainly suggests ecstatic play, but we can also see fragmented bodies and stylization that bring to mind darker themes. Maybe it's here that the broken pinata reference has the most impassioned weight. Explosions can be celebratory like fireworks but noisy and calamitous like a bomb.

During a recent exchange with Guzzo about his upcoming show, he said: *"When I was searching for the title for this show I came across the word "Fantasia" on Spotify in reference to a piece of music by Mozart. Many of us are familiar with the word because of the classic Disney movie but I decided to look it up, and it turns out that Fantasia is a historical term that was used to describe pieces of music that are improvised and free form – not too far off from the meaning of the word "descargas" as it is used today. About a week later I came across this line in Stendahl wherein he jokingly quips about a lovelorn young man: "Even his best pair of trousers and his most inspired fantasia failed to impress her", which I found amusingly relatable. The exotic prosody of the word itself, combined with its musical meaning already made me feel it was a good fit for a title. Finally, the word came up again just a few days later in a book I was reading by Giambattista Vico. This felt like too much of a coincidence and it sealed the deal. Vico (writing in the early 18th Century) uses the word in a very broad sense to describe the ability of cultures to generate meaning, in a supra-logical sense. This same generative expression, writes Vico, exists in children as a kind of pre-logical creativity which later serves as the ground for the more static assemblages of adult logic.*

*I like to reflect on my paintings with this sense of Fantasia in mind; they are beneath logic but help create some of the differences upon which my rational thinking stands. They are more like forces than things, and these forces define and transform the boundaries that my worldview is dependent on. Vico was the first historian to point out that in the cycles of history, poetry comes before prose and imagination comes before science. It dawns on me that our sciences have grown old. Their roads feel trodden and rutted. The signs are everywhere; decadent science is now poisoning us. We need new sciences, born out of our imaginations. It is my fervent wish that my poetry/paintings will contribute to the new world we all need to imagine."*

Guzzo Pinc (b. 1972) received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond in 1994 and his Master of Fine Arts from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2020. Upcoming solo exhibitions include Mash Up at the Roberta Avonn Fiskum Gallery, Whitewater, WI; an untitled exhibit at Devening Projects, Chicago, IL. Recent solo exhibitions include Farfalla at Tory Folliard Gallery, Milwaukee, WI; Creamy Huevos En Cielito Lindo at Var Gallery in Milwaukee, WI; and Select Paintings at Diane Endres Ballweg Gallery in Madison, WI. His work has been curated into group shows at Galerie DYS, Brussels, BE; Commonwealth Gallery, Madison, WI; Arts + Literature Laboratory, Madison, WI; and the Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL. He is the founder and lead curator of the Madison Experimental Arts Exhibition series in Madison, WI. Guzzo Pinc currently lives and creates in Fort Atkinson, WI, and teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.