

REBECCA CAMACHO PRESENTS



Andy Mister: *I always knew it would come to this*
Project Room | Maryam Yousif: *Tremble Like Reeds*

12 November – 20 December 2024 OPENING
RECEPTION: 12 November, 6 to 8pm

Rebecca Camacho Presents is pleased to announce *Andy Mister: I always knew it would come to this* and *Maryam Yousif: Tremble Like Reeds*. Both exhibitions open 12 November 2024 in the gallery's Jackson Square location in downtown San Francisco.

Andy Mister: I always knew it would come to this is Mister's third presentation with Rebecca Camacho Presents and includes a new suite of still life drawings rendered in the artist's signature medium, soft pastel on linen. Mister's process is rooted in photography, and he primarily works directly from historically sourced images. Over the last few years, Mister began working almost exclusively in pastel, a medium with a long and rich history, but that is most frequently connected to Impressionist artists, including Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and Berthe Morisot, amongst others, who reinvigorated and popularized the medium in the 19th century. In a myriad of richly saturated hues, Mister's pastel still-lives utilize the specific capabilities of the medium, featuring precise details alongside blended and densely saturated passages of color. The works in *I always knew it would come to this* evoke feelings of nostalgia and a longing for moments lost or past. Indeed, time is a key component in these works, which feature luscious bouquets of flowers represented in full bloom, at the peak of their beauty. These brief and fleeting moments are forever crystallized in Mister's pastels.

Most of the floral arrangements in this new body of work are derived from books about flowers that Mister acquired at secondhand stores. He uses the photographs in these books as a starting point for a method of production that artists have utilized since the advent of photography in the 19th century. Gesturing to these historical referents, Mister often embraces color choices that can be attributed to the photographic processes that inform his work, hearkening back to the history of the medium through the reddish-brown hues of sepia-toned prints and the rich blues of the cyanotype. Two drawings in *I always knew it would come to this* were produced in collaboration with Oakland based multi-disciplinary artist, Tosha Stimage. Her floral bouquets serve as the source imagery for *Saint Flora* (2024) and *Saint Flora II* (2024), named for Stimage's floral studio in San Francisco.

Maryam Yousif: Tremble Like Reeds is Yousif's first solo exhibition in the Project Room at Rebecca Camacho Presents. Yousif's show combines individual clay sculptures in an installation that elucidates the artist's ongoing engagement with Mesopotamian mythologies, histories and objects alongside modernist visual vocabularies and contemporary popular culture. Yousif's new body of work is informed by the poetry of Enheduanna, a Sumerian high priestess and daughter of Sargon of Akkad (Assyria, 24th - 23rd century BCE), who is considered to be the first known author. Symbols and imagery found in Enheduanna's poems and ancient antiquities from Assyria are fused with Yousif's own distinctive sensibility derived from sources such as Iraqi modernism and Bay Area Funk. Several works draw upon Yousif's personal effects, including family photographs and a letter written by the artist's mother in the 1970s. A brief passage of text and a drawing – both from the letter – are prominent features in a new bas-relief sculpture by Yousif. The text reads: "From my mothers' hands," and is carved into the surface of the work adjacent to a drawing of a young woman. Here, the text and imagery offer a profound statement, pointing to Yousif's ability to interweave personal histories with histories of female artists, writers, and makers across time and space.

Andy Mister (b. 1979 New Orleans, LA) lives and works in Binghamton, NY. He received a BA in English Literature and Philosophy from Loyola University of New Orleans in 2001 and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Montana in 2003. He has had solo exhibitions at Ochi Projects, Sun Valley (2024); Rebecca Camacho Presents, San Francisco (2024; 2023; 2021); Turn Gallery, New York (2023); Lowell Ryan Projects, Los Angeles (2022); Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville

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(2021); and Commune Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2019); amongst others. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Turn Gallery, New York (2022); Sevil Dolmaci, Istanbul, Turkey (2021); Launch F18, New York (2021); Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York (2021); and the Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2020); amongst others. Mister was artist in residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha (2015); and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York (2012); amongst others.

Maryam Yousif (b. 1985 Baghdad, Iraq) lives and works in San Francisco, CA. She received her BA at the University of Windsor, Ontario in 2008 and her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2017. Solo and two-person exhibitions include ICA San Francisco (2024); Rebecca Camacho Presents, San Francisco (2024); The Pit, Los Angeles / Palm Springs (2023, 2021); David B. Smith, Denver (2022); and Andrew Rafacz, Chicago (2021); amongst others. Yousif's work has been featured in group exhibitions at the Manetti Shrem Museum at UC Davis (2024); GGLA, Los Angeles (2024); Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles (2023); Museum of Art & Design, New York (2023); and Massey Klein Gallery, New York (2023); amongst others. She is the recipient of the Fleishhacker Foundation's Eureka Fellowship, a finalist for SFMOMA's SECA award, and the Museum of Art and Design's Burke Prize.

Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 5pm