

Dénes Maróti  
Every Day Counts  
31<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Fruit Bowl after Caravaggio, Oil on board, 65 x 60 cm

Fiumano Clase is delighted to announce the forthcoming solo exhibition of paintings by Hungarian artist Dénes Maróti. *Every Day Counts* is the culmination of years of study and experimentation with everyday items and emotions. Maróti explores the potential of familiar motifs and the artists capacity to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. The exhibition will include three separate series of paintings – Still Life, Landscape, and Portraiture.

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the genre of Still Life was traditionally regarded as the lowest of artistic genres. Considered by many academics as simply the mechanical reproduction of objects placed before the artist, it was given its lowly place as it was purported that no intellectual or transformative effort was made in the creation of these images. More contemporary art criticism challenges this ideology and in the hands of an artist like Maróti the viewer can see the compelling reasoning. Inspired by past masters including Michelangelo Caravaggio (Italian, 1571 – 1610) , Jean Siméon Chardin (French, 1699 – 1799), and Paul Cézanne (French, 1839 – 1906) Maróti takes a humble bowl of fruit and paints it continuously, from different angles and at various times of day and night.

Maróti's initial inspiration for the Still Lives on display was Caravaggio's celebrated "Basket of Fruit" c 1597-1600, (Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan). The wilting leaves, evidence of decay and a far from idealised worm hole painted by Caravaggio could be a simple rendition of what he saw before him or is there more to the image? Could the troubled young artist be commenting on the imperfect world in which he lived and his dissatisfaction with his own circumstances. This we will never know, but in Maróti's case he has a clear vision;

"At the beginning these were merely simple objects. Then, having studied Caravaggio's "Bowl of Fruit" I realised that simple is not as simple as it seems. I began to arrange my own fruit, in my own way. I could see many different perspectives, ways to continue painting something fresh even after having painted the same composition many times."

Dénes Maróti, September 2024

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He began painting this series in the winter of 2023 and was struck by the variety of fruits available in major supermarkets. It seemed misaligned with his personal beliefs to be buying exotic fruit so he decided to focus on produce that was local and seasonal. He bought apples, pears, and quince, creating familiar compositions with familiar produce. His paintings are both an artistic investigation into the beauty of the familiar and everyday but also a comment on the importance of sustainability and personal accountability.

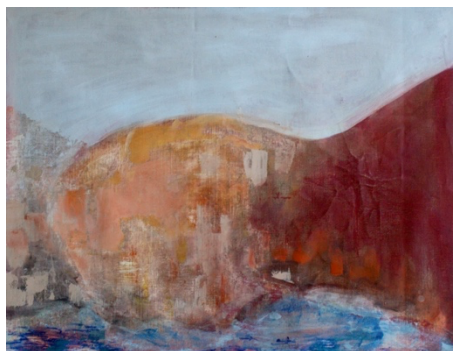
Portraiture has also been a constant source of fascination for Maróti. He has always focused on the expressive and emotional possibilities of the genre and his interest is in the power of a simple brush stroke to convey inner depth of the human form. A face may appear familiar to us, in a way that perhaps we can not quite pinpoint – is it the tilt of the head, the slight twitch of the lips that depicts a smile or just the swirl of colours surrounding the figure that ignites a feeling of recognition?

Each portrait is created over time with multiple layers of paint and then varnish. For Maróti the use of varnish is crucial to the final character of the work. Painting in this way has made him realise the connection between his own body and movements with the expression and continuance of each portrait;

“So every facial expression has a similar body movement. Even mirrored or copied. Its so interesting to translate a smile with the movement of my right hand, holding my brush to make a gesture on the canvas.”

Dénes Maróti, September 2024

It was whilst working on portraits that Maróti felt the link between images of people and landscape painting. For him we are all rooted in nature somehow, there is a basic and fundamental link between our bodies and the ground upon which we stand. In reality we are always surrounded by a landscape of sorts so it was no surprise to him that seeing one of his portrait paintings on its side evoked a landscape. own lived experience.



Cote de la Mer, Oil on linen, 80 x 60 cm

“Cote de la Mer” began as a portrait but when looked at from a different perspective “I realised that if I turn this or any other portrait or a bust it could become a landscape. Once again, we see Maróti working intuitively and with the confidence of a true master painter.

# FIUMANO CLASE

## Notes:

### Location:

Fiumano Clase, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 40-41 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG  
[www.fiumanoclase.com](http://www.fiumanoclase.com)

### Exhibition Dates:

31<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Gallery Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 11am – 6pm, Saturday – 12 noon – 4pm.  
All other times by appointment

## About the Artist

Dénes Maróti is a Hungarian painter currently based in Budapest. He completed a Masters Degree in Classical Art at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2005. He is a master Print Maker and has had several public exhibitions including at the Hungarian Embassy, London and the Cultural Institute of Hungary in Glasgow.

Maróti has been collaborating with Andres Clase since 2007 and is represented exclusively by Fiumano Clase. His work has been exhibited internationally including Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, America, Belgium and Hungary.

## About Fiumano Clase

Five years after its formation the gallery relocated to Pall Mall in central London.

Now in the seventh year, the central ethos of Fiumano Clase remains firmly committed to working collaboratively with artists, giving them the time, space and opportunity to develop their artistic practice unhindered by commercial pressures.

The gallery represents a number of artists internationally, embracing a range of different practices from painting and sculpture to photography, installation, video and performance art.

Gallery Directors Francesca Fiumano and Andrés Clase met in the art world a few years before founding Fiumano Clase and forming a family. Together they have over 40 years of experience in the arts. Each has completed a Masters in History of Art and are active supporters of the wider art-world, beyond the gallery itself.