

PRESS RELEASE

Gitler & _____

Raul Mourão: *SU CASA*

October 11 – 17, 2015

Opening reception: Sunday, Oct 11, 4-6 PM

Conor Fagan: *Tawny Earth*

October 18 – November 11, 2015

Opening reception: Sunday, Oct 18, 12-3 PM



Raul Mourão, *Animal*, 2015; steel, 32.25 x 45 x 80 in.

(October 7, 2015) Gitler & _____ is proud to present back-to-back solo exhibitions from multimedia artists **Raul Mourão** and **Conor Fagan**, entitled *SU CASA* and *Tawny Earth*, respectively. Mourão's *SU CASA* will have a limited one-week run and feature the sculpture *Animal* as well as five new paintings from his *Fenestra* series. Fagan's *Tawny Earth* will feature several new oil paintings and morphological sculpture made from fabric, stuffing, clay and acrylic paint. The shows' openings will take place on consecutive Sundays, October 11 and 18.



Conor Fagan, *Tawny Earth*, 2015; oil on canvas, 35 x 46 in.

Mourão's kinetic sculptures, which are prepared to be touched and manipulated, often present an imposing yet elegant composition in three dimensions. For *SU CASA*, however, Mourão is adapting this signature narrative (as seen with *Please Touch*, his recent solo show at The Bronx Museum) to a more intimate space. This shift in scale establishes a dialogue with the rooms we inhabit together, relating in a closer way to the spectator's body and immediate senses. This new perspective also affects Mourão's paintings, which transform images of windows into an opaque grid or schematic sign; these same windows that connect such rooms with the outside world.

Fagan's quasi-surrealist paintings are the imaginative makings of a colorist and alchemist, experimenting with all manner of voluptuous and vibrant protoforms that populate each canvas. Although Fagan's forms bear little resemblance to anything earthly or anatomical, the influence of fantastical landscapes is evident by the nuanced intrusion of light and shadow, a la Pieter Bruegel the Elder. While elements of landscape and still-life painting persist, Fagan's preoccupation is with extracting form from color—an improvisational approach—rather than inserting color into predetermined forms.

In the case of Fagan's ground-display sculptures, portions of the landscape now reside

in three dimensions and invite our downward gaze. The artist's compulsion for color adopts a more patterned feel throughout, and the resulting tactile quality is rendered an illusion thanks to the insertion of grotesque clay forms that bleed from the soft crevices.

Raul Mourão was born Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and was educated at the School of Visual Arts of Parque Lage. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries all over the world. He lives and works in New York. **Conor Fagan** was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. He received his BA in painting from Kendall College of Art and Design and his MA in Fine and Media Arts from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He lives and works in Traverse City, MI. **Gitler & _____** is located in Hamilton Heights, NYC. The gallery is dedicated to showcasing rising artists from around the world. For more info visit www.gitlerand.com.

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