



OLYMPVS

# OLYMPVS

**James REKA**

Opening - June 4th. 2015

Avantgarden Gallery  
Via Cadolini, 29  
20137 Milano. Italia

[www.avantgardengallery.com](http://www.avantgardengallery.com)

Avantgarden Gallery opens OLYMPVS, solo exhibition by James Reka, Australian artist, currently living in Berlin.

His artistic origins come from the streets and railway lines, in the suburbs of Melbourne, where he spent more than a decade and where he has his background of iconic aesthetic influenced by pop culture, comics and illustration.

He is known for his graffiti, populated by figures from anthropomorphic forms, playful but disturbing as it combines contradictory emotions: humor and foreboding menacing.

These abstract and surreal figures, made by sharp lines, dynamic movements and bold colors invade the streets of the city, “climbing” on brick walls and giving the urban environment a new layer of ‘litterary colours’

The subjects by Reka, perfectly inserted in the Berlin metropolitan context, promote dialogue between the viewer and the surrounding environment.

From Avantgarden Gallery we’ll see on site-specific works: the ‘artist will paint some walls of the gallery and will carry about 15 works of various sizes from 50 cm up to 150 cm created on linen cloths in which the protagonists of the exhibition, female figures, will be portrayed in classical and futuristic poses at the same time, a combination of figurative and abstract mixes scenes that recall the Gymnasium, the site of ancient Greece for the promotion of hygiene, health and welfare of the Hellenic people.

The Australian artist will also perform creating various murals in the city of Milan. Recently, James Reka held important solo exhibitions in London, San Francisco, in Denmark and Melbourne, he has exhibited his works at the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) in Bristol, as well as in New York, Denver, Berlin & Tokyo .

*For artwork enquires and exhibition catalogue please contact:*

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## BIO:

**James Reka** is a young contemporary Australian artist based in Berlin, Germany. His origins lie in the alleyways and train lines of Melbourne's inner-suburbs where he spent over a decade refining his now-emblematic aesthetic. His character work has come to represent the beginnings of a new style of street art: clean, unique and not necessarily on the street (much to his mother's joy). Surrealist, abstracted creatures emerge from the depths of Reka's mind, communicating through strong lines, dynamic movement and bold colors. These figures haunt the laneways over three continents, clambering up brick walls and giving the urban environment a literal fresh coat of paint. Their personalities mirror those of their often-decrepit metropolitan context, opening a dialogue between the viewer and their surroundings.

With influences in pop culture, cartoons and illustration, Reka's style has become known for its fusion of high and low art. This style emerged from his Pop-Art-influenced logo design background, featuring simple but striking lines and colour ways. Over time, the logos and symbols he created for clients evolved into more structured, animated forms and embraced variances of the different media he began experimenting with. These elements include murals, graphics, photography, and most recently, a move towards working with found objects, often sourced walking the train lines at night or exploring abandoned warehouses.

Through these origins, Reka has developed an incredibly diligent, almost obsessive attention to the technical proficiency of his work, and it has moved him towards producing ever-increasingly meticulously detailed pieces. His art sits somewhere between humorous and menacing, contrasting the two opposing feelings in a way that is unique to his vision. These pseudo-human forms are recognizable but isolating, playful yet eerie. This is Reka's art: a paradox between sharp design and graffiti, held together with a fuse of passion and spray paint.

Recently, Reka has held solo shows in London, San Francisco, Denmark and Melbourne, has exhibited at the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) in Bristol, as well as pieces appearing in New York, Munich, Denver and Cologne exhibitions. On the streets, his characters adorn the walls of cities around the world from Japan to Milan and Paris to Brooklyn, Montreal to Berlin. Reka's works have recently been acquisitioned by the National Gallery of Australia for their permanent collection, cementing his place as one of Australia's most respected contemporary street artists.



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**Title:**

OLYMPVS 3000

**Dimensions:**

88 cm x 135 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:** ●

€4000.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Fountain of Youth

**Dimensions:**

90 cm x 129 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€4000.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Lost Time

**Dimensions:**

88 cm x 116 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€3500.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Paralell Thoughts

**Dimensions:**

94 cm x 88 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€3000.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Soul Searching

**Dimensions:**

92 cm x 83 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€3000.00 (+IVA)





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**Title:**

Patience

**Dimensions:**

92 cm x 63 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€2500.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Natura Morta 1

**Dimensions:**

86 cm x 56 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€2500.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Natura Morta 2

**Dimensions:**

80 cm x 58 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€2500.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Star Gazing

**Dimensions:**

69 cm x 61 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€1900.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Set in Stone

**Dimensions:**

69 cm x 61 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€1900.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Future Bound

**Dimensions:**

69 cm x 61 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€1900.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Natura Morta 3

**Dimensions:**

52 cm x 44 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€1500.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Fragments

**Dimensions:**

52 cm x 44 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€1500.00 (+IVA)





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**Title:**

Dream Serpent

**Dimensions:**

45 cm x 42 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:**

€900.00 (+IVA)



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**Title:**

Luna Eclipse

**Dimensions:**

45 cm x 42 cm

**Medium:**

Mixed Media on Linen

**Price:** ●

€900.00 (+IVA)