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# 'Specially Normal' by Audun Alvestad and Cristina BanBan at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | MARCH 15, 2018



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"Cala Break," 2018, by Cristina BanBan, acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 195 x 150 cm | 76 3/4 x 59 1/8 in, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, New York  
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Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery will host an exhibition titled “Specially Normal” showcasing new works by Norwegian artist Audun Alvestad and Spanish artist Cristina BanBan in London.

The show is solely dedicated to the concept of duality with two painters, two contemporary and complementary styles, and two very different lenses on looking at the world.

In “Specially Normal,” Kristin Hjellegjerde will bring to the table the contrasting yet complementary works of two contemporary painters who will explore their duet in a series of painterly portraits of people.

The show at first glance may appear similar in their depiction of everyday life, though, these two oeuvres embody distinctly different approaches. What unites Alvestad and BanBan is an interest in everyday life. Each of these two painters depicts “normal people doing normal things,” as BanBan explains. However, at first glance what might appear quite similar, upon further examination reveals differences that are layered and deep – and it’s not about just their in aesthetic style alone. Indeed, Alvestad and BanBan’s styles and approaches appear almost inversely complementary, which is quite an interesting position for both the artists to represent themselves in the exhibition and connect or contradict each other through their very own styles – for where Alvestad focuses on the painting process itself, with the narrative providing a secondary, not primary function, for BanBan, the painting begins with the narrative, which then unfolds through the process of paint.

As such, Cristina BanBan's paintings are generally characterized by her fleshiness, attributing a sensuality that are evident in the bulkiness of thighs and arms balanced out in the composition by serene and delicate rosebud mouths as much as it could be conveyed by those dainty faces. Her paintings depict her eroticism at large. Placing characters in intriguing quotidian situations – going for a run with a friend, taking a bath with a lover, a bowl of carbonara interrupted by a flashing phone – allows the viewer a snapshot of an everyday moment in time. Yet there is the ever-pervading sense of a wider backstory at play. BanBan focuses on feelings, individual stories and relationships, representing emotions and a subject's environment.

*The exhibition is going to be on view from March 29 through April 28, 2018, at Kristin Hjellegjerde, 533 Old York Rd, London SW18 1TG, UK.*

*For details, visit: [www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/kristin-hjellegjerde-gallery/overview](http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/kristin-hjellegjerde-gallery/overview)  
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*Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the artworks.*

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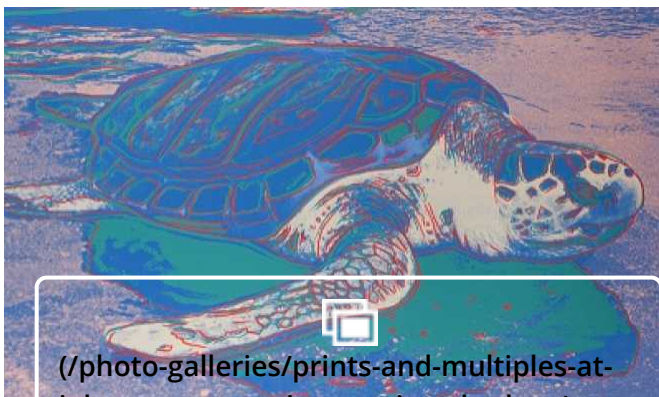
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