



---

## Federico Solmi

### *Mundus Novus*

---

08.06.2019 – 23.08.2019

**June 8, 2019** - ADN Galeria presents *Mundus Novus*, the third solo exhibition by Federico Solmi, Italian born artist based in New York. Using drawing as a starting point, he creates a hybrid artistic medium by which to criticize - today's society. With this goal in mind, the artist uses various media which lead drawing to a new state of movement and dramatization, through the use of 3D technology, game engines, motion capture, paintings and screens. Works presented on this occasion are focused on America's colonization. Explorers, colonizers, warriors, natives, villains, scoundrels and tricksters are positioned within fantastical scenes of grotesque comedy that debase the very myth

of the New World's conquest. Skipping the historical chronology, settlers make their entrance like red-carpet stars while natives receive them enthusiastically, all of them surrounded by groups of paparazzi, cheers and applause.

Textbook narratives are put on trial in the world of Federico Solmi where learned histories of Euro-American heroes are exposed as a manipulation of the past to propagate fable. Facts are dismantled in an ironic circus of saturated colors and trademark labels which come together to construct a critique of consumer-obsessed and nihilistic western values.

adngaleria

c/ Enrique Granados, 49, 08008, Barcelona. T. (+34) 93 451 0064, [info@adngaleria.com](mailto:info@adngaleria.com) <http://www.adngaleria.com>

The visual language that makes Solmi's works recognizable is characterized by a distorted re-imagining of classical figures in a digitized and bizarre real-world environment. His narratives integrate icons of Western culture to reflect a ridiculous and misguided society that is as seductively indulgent as it is nightmarish.

The use of new animation technologies gives Solmi the ability to continually re-asses and rewrite history through dynamic and dramatic forms of storytelling. His puppet-like characters are alive with motion capture techniques that work to address profound political dramas into his absurdest theatre of the world.

Through drawing and video-painting, history continuum that reflects the ongoing reality of political and religious leaders who profit through wealth and influence despite legacies of corruption, manipulation, and genocide.

This hypocritical cultural heritage of the West, endorsed by historians and governments, is what Solmi obsesses over in his works, casting a strikingly dystopian perspective on the the past and present worlds alike.

Visible in this body of work are the inextricable connections between nation and religion, consumerism and capitalism, etc. Ceremony, pomp and circumstance become grotesque, defying habitual ideas around the performance of nationalism.



Federico Solmi, *The Compassionate Scoundrel*, 2018  
Acrylic paint, gold leaf, screen and video

The art simultaneously satirizes and highlights the capacity of mass media to influence in the processes of power validation and recognition. Thus, the representation of power in his work leads to an identification of our current society as a prisoner of its own self-obsessed spectacle.

With the collapse of time and geography in the artistic plane, Solmi strongly underlines the ways in which state power, colonialism and imperialism have a symbiotic relationship with capitalist ambitions.





Federico Solmi, *The Caring Tricksters*, 2018

**Federico Solmi** (Italia, 1973) is a multi-disciplinary artist based in New York. Solmi's work investigates the contradictions and inaccuracies of historical narratives that have led society to a chaotic era of misinformation in which the reality of media, celebrity, popular culture and consumerism in Western civilization establish an extreme and absurd world characterized by corruption, and hypocrisy. Solmi exploits emerging technologies to reveal the hypocrisies in contemporary society, making art with political and social commentary as a means to disrupt the power structure of our technological age. Scanning his paintings into a game engine, Solmi confronts the audience with his own absurd rewriting of past and present-day events. Solmi stages a virtual world where our leaders become puppets, animated by computer scripts rather than strings.

His work has been included in several international Biennials, including: Open Spaces: A Kansa City Arts Experience (2018), the Beijing Media Art Biennale (2016), Frankfurt B3 Biennial of the Moving image (2017-2015), the First Shenzhen Animation Biennial in China (2013), the 54th Venice Biennial (2011), and the SITE Santa Fe Biennial in New Mexico (2010). In 2009, Solmi was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in the category of Video & Audio. Solmi has been featured in solo museum exhibitions including: Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig, Tarble Art Center, Charleston Illinois, Rochester Contemporary Art Center (2018), Museo de Arte Contemporaneo del Zulia Maracaibo, Venezuela (2017), the Haifa Museum of Art, Israel (2016), the Centro Cultural Matucana 100, Santiago, Chile (2015), The Italian Cultural institute of Madrid. His installation at Times Square in New York will be inaugurated soon.

adngaleria

c/ Enrique Granados, 49, 08008, Barcelona. T. (+34) 93 451 0064, [info@adngaleria.com](mailto:info@adngaleria.com) <http://www.adngaleria.com>



Federico Solmi  
***The Good Villain***  
 2018

vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/301669156>  
 password: Villain



Federico Solmi  
***The Forgiving Ones***  
 2018

vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/301649134>  
 password: Forgiving