

## **A Private Matter**

### ***Exhibition of Painting by Mark Maggiori***

**Private Viewing on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2008,  
Cheyne Walk Salon - London**

The intriguing figures in Maggiori's paintings are portraits of men, women and children, which the artist befriended during his college and university years. They depict the artist's fascination, from an early age, with the human body, soul and mind. The figures represent, look and feel familiar - it can be the girl next door, the boy playing in the school yard or the man walking on a sidewalk - and yet there is something strange and mysterious with the way the bodies are painted and how their postures are portrayed, almost emanating from another time, another dimension. Their poses, expressions, and postures portray the intimacy and connections the artist has developed with his models, forging his own style, away from the influence of his classical training received during his years of study.

Inspired by John Singer Sargent and Joaquin Sorolla's portraits and still life portrayals of everyday life, which exude spirit and vivacity, Maggiori, from an early stage, developed an interest in figurative painting with a strong purpose to express reality with accuracy, spontaneity, beauty and simplicity. "There is so much to extract from the simple view and study of the anatomy", says Maggiori. "The sight of a naked body whatever it is, is always beautiful and there is no room for mistakes, misinterpretation or inaccuracy". His works, at times, focus on highlighting the details inherent in a moment of intimacy. But this expression is often juxtaposed with broad brush strokes, which suggest a movement, a smile or a shadow - a technique aimed at conserving a sense of freshness and lightness of being.

When writing about his body of work, Maggiori highlights the "struggle" he encounters to be true to his vision of depicting purity, simplicity and beauty in his work. The relationship with his models has been troubling and confusing, rendering his creative process most interesting and stimulating. The personal connection the artist has with each of his models has resulted in an uneasy, intimate experience, giving the beholder a very private view into the artist's timidity with his subject and producing an almost "puritan edge" in a homage to the romanticism of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. These intimate moments create an element of voyeurism, an emotion with which Maggiori had great difficulty reconciling.

Trained as a graphic designer and a painter, Maggiori has favored the photographic medium as a means to sketch and derive his final composition. The use of photography was aimed at deconstructing and reviving the relationship between the photographic and painted image and was instrumental to the final composition of his paintings. "My approach to painting is constantly evolving. I am always searching for a maximum of freshness and accuracy... However, the less time I spend on each picture, the better it is" says Maggiori. His work as a figurative narration, depicts in reality fictive emotions, where the viewer has to make the pictures his in a very private manner. If there was romanticism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Maggiori would be one of its leading figures.

Born in 1977 in Fontainebleau, France, Mark Maggiori lives and work between LA and Paris. He graduated from the Grande École of Graphic Arts in Paris in 2000. He has been prolifically active in several disciplines, including graphic illustration, painting, photography, writing, cinematography, and advertisement. He is also the lead singer of French Nu-Metal band Pleymo which was signed to a Sony recording contract in September 2000. Pleymo have since achieved success, critical acclaim and a large fan base with the release of six studio and four live albums. In 2007 he wrote and directed a short film 'Thelma', a portrait of a young obese girl growing up in the American suburbs. He expanded this theme in a recent photographic project depicting the conflicting suburbs of America and Cuba. His background and interest in illustration has led to the creation of an animated series 'Anatane', which aired on the channel France2 in 2008. A feature-length, feature film 'Function' is planned for release in 2009.