

# JULIAN OPIE



May 11th - September 30th 2023  
via del Portico d'Ottavia 13, Rome

## PRESS RELEASE

Galleria Valentina Bonomo is delighted to announce the opening of Julian Opie's solo exhibition on Thursday May 11th 2023 from 3 to 9 pm.

In his fourth one-man exhibition at the Galleria Valentina Bonomo, Julian Opie will be presenting his latest *walking figures* – thirteen works featuring human figures captured from reality.

Each of them is unique, with a style all their own, expressed in their clothing, their movements and the objects they carry or simply by the accessories they wear. The works' protagonists are caught going about their daily lives – these are people walking somewhere for a very specific reason, often clutching phones or reading an email.

The artist develops and transforms his subjects, arriving at the essence of their forms via a process in which the marks he makes are reduced to a minimum. The result is works that may be stylised but lose nothing in terms of expressiveness or individuality, and whose freshness is rendered all the more emphatic by the extreme directness with which they present themselves to the viewer. Opie's works, which have been described as *modern icons* of a generic and generalised existence, turn a spotlight on questions associated with the psychology of perception and with knowledge-as-practice, delving into the ambiguities of the relationship linking reality and its totemic representations.

The world Opie depicts, using digital technology, is effectively a meditation on the complex interplay between nature and artifice, and between signs/marks and reality as we observe and experience it.

The exhibition is presented in a text by Valentino Catricalà, director of the SODA Gallery in Manchester.

For further information:

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### Biography:

Julian Opie was born in London in 1958. In 1983 he graduated from Goldsmiths School of Art, where he studied under Michael Craig-Martin. He lives and works in London. He has exhibited widely in the United Kingdom and internationally, with major exhibitions in museums including: the Kunstverein in Cologne, the Hayward Gallery and the ICA in London, the Lehnbachhaus in Munich, K21 in Dusseldorf, MAK in Vienna, the Mito Tower in Japan, the CAC in Malaga and the IVAM in Valencia, MoCAK in Krakow, the Tidehalle in Helsinki, the Fosun Foundation in Shanghai, and the Suwon IPark Museum of Art in Korea. Opie has made public artworks for numerous cities around the world, notably including works for: the Dentsu Building in Tokyo (2002), City Hall Park in New York (2004), the Mori Building, Omotesando Hill in Japan (2006), the River Vltava in Prague (2007), Phoenix Art Museum USA (2007), Dublin City Gallery in Ireland (2008), Seoul Square in South Korea (2009), Regent's Place in London (2011), SMETS in Belgium (2011), Calgary, Canada (2012), and The Lindo Wing at St Mary's Hospital, London (2012); and, more recently, permanent installations at PKZ in Zurich, Arendt & Medernach in Luxembourg, and also in Taipei, Taiwan, at Tower 535, Causeway Bay in Hong Kong and at WTC in Lisbon. Opie's works are present in many public art collections, including the Tate, the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Arts Council, the British Council and the National Portrait Gallery in London, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the ICA in Boston, USA, the Essl Collection in Vienna, IVAM in Spain, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Takamatsu City Museum of Art in Japan.