

# BRIAN KEITH STEPHENS | GARLIC AND GASOLINE

Curated by Alessandra Redaelli

Opening Reception: **SATURDAY, MAY 6 2023, H 5-7 pm**  
Dates: May 6 – June 10 2023  
Location: **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** | Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61, Varese  
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www.puntosullarte.com  
Visiting hours: Tuesday – Saturday: h 9.30 – 5 pm  
Catalogue: critical text by Alessandra Redaelli

Internationally renowned American artist **BRIAN KEITH STEPHENS** returns to the **PUNTO SULL'ARTE** Gallery for a solo show where the animal world is protagonist. The **Opening reception** will be held on **SATURDAY, MAY 6** from **5pm to 7pm** at the main gallery at Viale Sant'Antonio 59/61 Varese.

Three years after his debut at his Italian Gallery, the American painter Brian Keith Stephens returns to PUNTO SULL'ARTE with a new body of work. **Faithful to his textured, dynamic, and expressive brush strokes, at once vibrant and blurred**, the artist exposes us to another gaze on nature. His show features uninhabited landscapes and still-lives as well as diverse representations of animal form. Stripped of naturalism, Stephens' cheetahs, elephants, and zebras play with our perception. Animals lie doubled across their mirror image, repeat in modules, and emerge like figures in a procession across low-lying horizons, marked by palm trees or standing out against incongruous patterns that emphasize their allegorical scope. In this way, the artist reveals a symbology that through the presence of the animal seeks to outline human psychology. From here also comes the title, enigmatic and playful, **"Garlic and gasoline"**. The title relates to contrasting but coexisting energies, one organic one mechanical, different but both quite intense like a passion for good food or a passion for exquisite cars. Manifesting often in opposite activities: the joy of meeting for pasta with friends juxtaposed against the thrill of a speeding car. These sensations appear on Stephens' canvases taking the form of a powerful but calm elephant, perhaps, or a slick, swift panther.

Previously **unexhibited works** by Artist will be on display.

**Opening reception MAY, SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> from 5 TO 7 PM.** The Artist will be present and at 6 pm the art curator Alessandra Redaelli will take a short speech in which she will introduce the essence of the exhibition.

The exhibition is accompanied by a **BILINGUAL CATALOGUE** created by PUNTO SULL'ARTE containing curator Alessandra Redaelli's critical text and the reproduction of the exhibited artworks.

The exhibition will be open until **June, Saturday 10.**

**BRIAN KEITH STEPHENS** was born in 1973 in Maryland (USA) and he was raised in the quaint town of North Stonington, Connecticut. He became interested in photography before realizing his passion for painting in its roots. He received classical training at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts (Connecticut, USA) and then he attended the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. Very early on Stephens started showing his work to the public with undeniable enthusiasm. As a result, since 1996 his art has been featured in over 100 exhibitions internationally. In 2004, he received a MFA in Painting from the City College of New York where he also experimented with printmaking. Stephens has been affiliated with galleries in the USA (New York City, Boston, San Francisco) and in Europe (Italy, France, Poland and Denmark). He has taken part in Art Fairs in the United States and Europe. In the beginning of 2021 the artist introduced his major body of work *Almost True Tales* at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut. Even though painting is like breathing

Per ricevere informazioni e immagini rivolgersi a: info@puntosullarte.it

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for Stephens, he also sometimes is traversing the mediums including a wide array of materials within his pieces and working on video and installation projects. His installation *Butterfly Disco* received very successful reception from audiences at the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, Rochester, New Heaven. He currently divides his time between Old Lyme (Connecticut), Brooklyn (New York) and Łódź (Poland).

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