

칼란 그레시아 CALLAN GRECIA ABSOLUTE LIGHTSPEED

기체는 남아프리카공화국의 칼란 그레시아(Callan Grecia) 한국 첫 개인전 Absolute Lightspeed를 8월 30일부터 선보인다. 17여점의 회화 신작이 소개되는 이번 전시에서 작가는 에일리언 형상에 자신을 투영하고, 세상을 인식하는 방식과 속도, 그를 둘러싼 시간과 공간을 탐색한다.

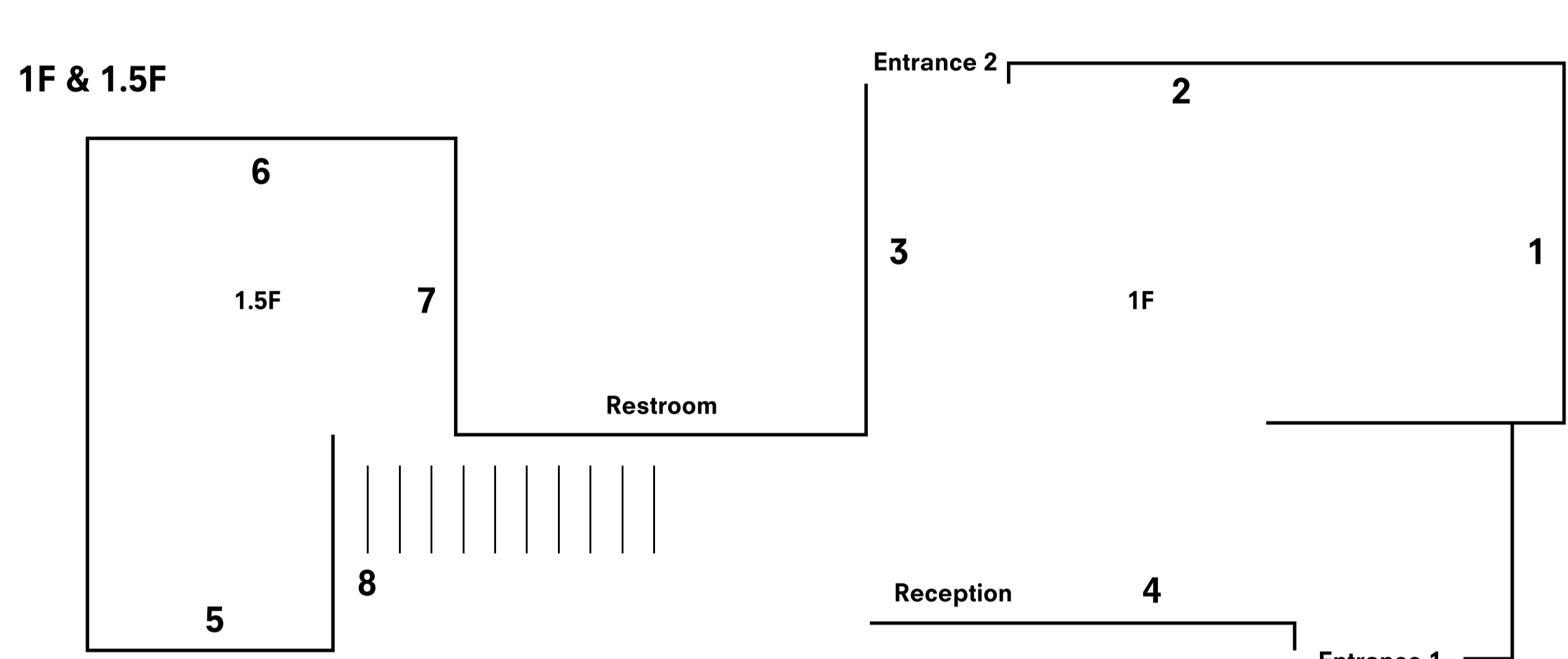
기술의 혁신이 불러온 수많은 변화 중 하나는 컴퓨터와 휴대폰을 비롯한 다양한 ‘스크린’이 만들어낸 지속적이고 즉각적인 이미지 소비이다. 폴 비릴리오(Paul Virilio)가 말했듯 모든 것에 즉시 접근할 수 있는 절대 속도에 도달해, 출발과 도착처럼 물리적 이동에 수반되는 시간적 경험이 불가능해졌다. 수세기의 역사를 담고 있는 고전 명작과 세상 반대편 누군가의 아침 식사가 뒤섞여 있는 이들 화면과 작가의 작업은 어딘가 닮아있다.

칼란은 카라바조부터 탈알(Tal R), 벽돌 문양과 브랜드 로고까지 다양한 레퍼런스를 참조한다. 그 안에는 미술사의 과거와 현재 뿐 아니라 남아공에 거주하는 인디언의 후손이자, 인종차별정책 아파르트헤이트 이후를 살아가고 있는 작가의 개인적 경험도 녹아들어 있다.

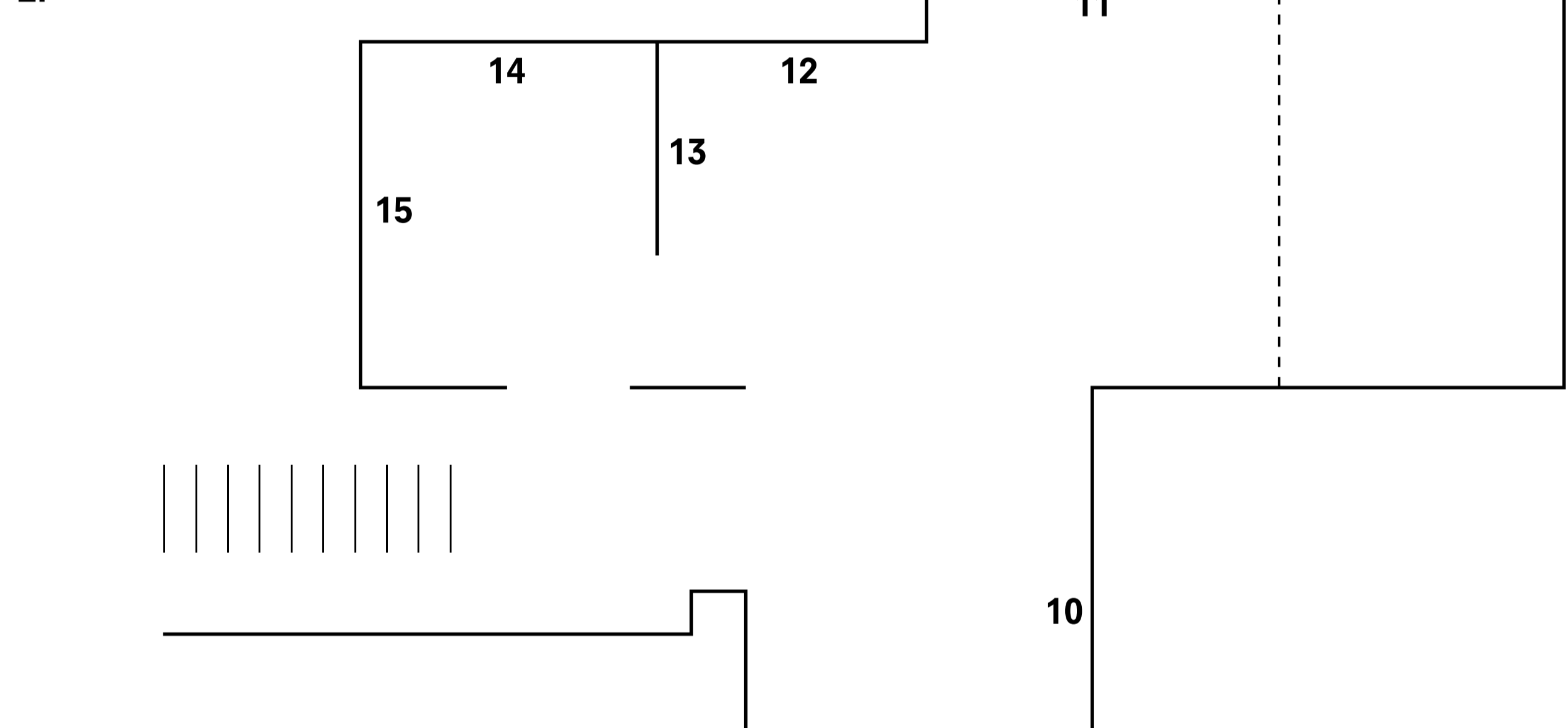
작가는 현대사회 이미지 경제의 주요한 특징 중 하나로 이념적, 인지적 평면성을 꼽는다. 이미지 간의 위계나 중요도, 또, 예술, 광고, 저널리즘, 감시 사이의 경계가 불분명해졌다. 작가의 작업 역시 수많은 아이콘을 불러들여, 그 방대함을 하나의 평면 안에서 구현한다. 그리고 그 주인공이자, 관찰자로 생경한 에일리언을 내세움으로써 새로운 시간, 공간 나아가 속도감을 부여한다.

칼란 그레시아

칼란 그레시아는 1991년 남아프리카공화국 더반 출신으로 현재 조지에서 거주하며 작업하고 있다. 로즈대학교에서 미술 석사를 수여했다. SMAC (2022, 스틸렌보스); SMAC (2021, 케이프타운); Rhodes University Somerset Gallery (2017, 그레이엄스타운), The Albany Natural Science Museum in Grahamstown (2014, 그레이엄스타운)등과 꾸준히 개인전을 선보였으며, 파리 패션위크 맨 FW19 (2019, 파리); KZNSA Gallery (2019, Durban); The Cosmopolitan (2019, 요하네스버그) 등에서 다수의 단체전에 참여한 바 있다.



- 1 Alien Invasive Species, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 200×150cm
- 2 We Don't Come In Peace, We Just Hate Photos, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 120×100cm
- 3 Eternal Return, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 120×100cm
- 4 Floaters 1a, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 40×50cm
- 5 A Dream About Sleep, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 200×150cm
- 6 Floaters 1b, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 50×40cm
- 7 The Observable and Unobservable Universe, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 80×60 cm
- 8 Space Vase, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 40×30cm



- 9 Close Encounter, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 80×60cm
- 10 Zander Eats The Moon, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 120×100cm
- 11 Fishing For Compliments, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 120×100cm
- 12 Narcissus, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, 30×40cm
- 13 Fast Vase, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 80×60cm
- 14 Blud Moon, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 40×30cm
- 15 Distorted Sense Of Self, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 120×100cm

KICHE is pleased to announce Callan Grecia’s solo show Absolute Lightspeed to be held from August 30 to September 24, 2022. In this new body of works created for the show, Callan Grecia projects himself and us on alien figures. He explores the way and the speed in which we see the world—as well as the presence and absence of time and space surrounding it.

Today, images are consumed constantly and instantly through omnipresent screens. As Paul Virillio described, we’ve reached an ‘absolute speed’ in which things are immediately accessible. Physical distance, arrival and departure have become irrelevant, for which, naturally, we hardly experience time anymore. In those screens, we encounter images of historical classics just before we scroll down to find a fancy meal of a stranger living halfway across the globe. Yet, somehow, they seem to resemble the works of the artist.

The artist adopts references varying from Caravaggio to Tal R and bricks as well as logos of popular brands. For example, brick is a motif deeply embedded in the history of South Africa which also used to be one of the markers of one’s social status. In his works, it often becomes the background or a frame for different figures and scenes. As the artist puts, this is not merely an exercise in fusing history with the contemporary but an infusion of his own heritage, culture, and scope of interest being raised in a “post-apartheid” South Africa. Portals that sporadically appear throughout the exhibition seem to be inviting us to look from a distance the trippy world captured in the artist’s works.

“Flattening,” either ideological or perceptive, is one of the essential features Callan Grecia uses to describe the modern image economy. The hierarchy of importance or categories of art, advertisement, journalism and surveillance are flattened. Creating an assemblage of iconography that spans broadly, his work is also a flattening of such multifarious and with an alien as the main character-slash-observer, added are the dimensions of time, space and speed.

Callan Grecia

Callan Grecia was born in Durban, South Africa in 1991, and currently lives and works in George, South Africa. In 2017 he completed his Master of Fine Art degree in painting at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. Grecia presented solo shows at SMAC (2022, Stellenbosch); SMAC (2021, Cape Town); Rhodes University Somerset Gallery (2017, Grahamstown), and The Albany Natural Science Museum in Grahamstown (2014, Grahamstown). He has also presented group exhibitions at Paris Fashion Week Men FW19 (2019, Paris); RK Contemporary (2019, Cape Town); KZNSA Gallery (2019, Durban); and The Cosmopolitan (2019, Johannesburg) among many.