

# FUTURES

PRESS RELEASE



Sylvan Lionni  
*Sports & Leisure*  
03.09.22-  
01.10.22  
Opening: Sat 3rd  
September 4-6pm

FUTURES  
21 Easey Street  
Collingwood  
VIC 3066

FUTURES is thrilled to present 'Sports & Leisure', a curious solo exhibition by the American artist Sylvan Lionni, to be held at our contemporary art gallery in uptown Collingwood, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, planet Earth.

For Sylvan's latest exhibition the artist continues exploring details embedded in the cultural mundane, using the language of American culture to tap into nerdy painting questions framed by a pop sensibility. An ordinary day is deconstructed by scrutinizing logos, litter, sporting equipment and word play. Having long employed quotidian imagery to address the slippery boundaries between art and life, Sylvan ups the dosage of his peculiar addiction, all-the-while challenging our perception of agreed upon images.

A vibrant suite of quatrain daisy chain poems – popular brand name logos depicted verbatim – are all expertly hand-painted in Sylvan's token hard-edge style.

These works consider the math of poetry while mocking the lures that target our desire for corporate consumption. Surgically handcrafted trompe-l'oeil pizza boxes (Sm. and Lg.) made in folded steel and urethane hang like a contrapposto portrait, bent but not broken after a long journey. A puzzling sphere that conflates a soccer and basketball is placed adjacent to an equally surreal basketball backboard that's been doubled vertically like a drunken butterfly.

Taken as a whole, the artist's allegiance to the tenants of American minimalism and post-pop tendencies is unavoidably felt. But one comes away with a new brand of armchair scholarship, as antagonistic toward staid artistic strategies as indebted to them.

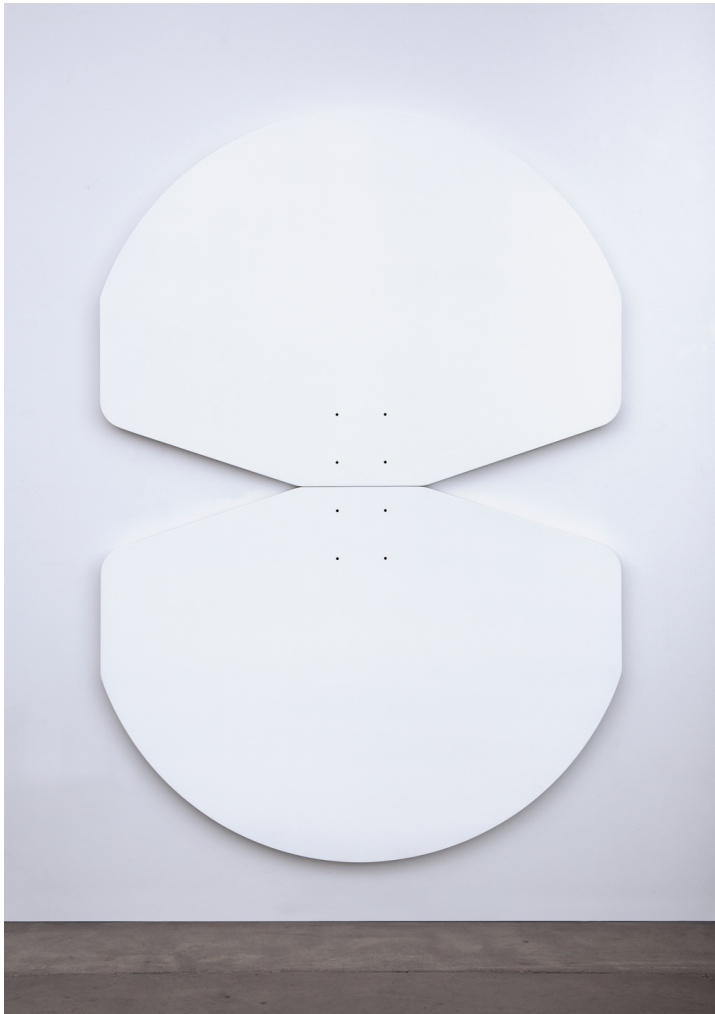
Sylvan's on-going expansion of a visual language that's usage as metaphor is at once universal and indefatigable.

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It's a confusing proposition being asked not to touch objects in our everyday lives, but Lionni does it with a flippant panache that focuses a lens on the subtle poetry needed to re-examine our beautiful backgrounds.

Sylvan Lionni received his MFA from Bard College, NY and BFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. His solo exhibitions include Taubert Contemporary, Berlin; KANSAS, NY; Fort Gansevort, NY; Stene Projects, Stockholm; Freight + Volume, New York, NY; and Fusebox, Washington, DC.

His work has been exhibited in museums in the United States and Europe, including The Brooklyn Museum of Art, MoMA P.S. 1, and mumok. His work is held in many private and public collections, including the Daimler Collection, Berlin, Germany; General Dynamics, Falls Church, Virginia; and the Johns Hopkins Children's Center, Baltimore, Maryland. His work has appeared, or been reviewed in ArtForum, Svenska Dagbladet, Art in America, Flash Art, and Architectural Digest among others.



## Artwork details:

First page: Subway, Ricola, GQ, Interview, 2022, gauche on paper, 76.2 x 55.9 cm (unframed)

Left: Double Double, 2022, urethane on steel, 198 x 137.16 cm