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**Von Buren Contemporary** presents

***Prud’hon and More***

the solo exhibition of

**AGOSTINO ROCCO**

***Vernissage***

**Sunday November 26, 2023**

**5 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.**

the exhibition will remain on show until December 6

Opening hours: 11:00-13:30 and 16:00-19:30; Sunday and Monday by appointment

**Von Buren Contemporary**

Via Giulia 13, 00186 Rome

**Von Buren Contemporary** is delighted to present ***Prud’hon and More***, the solo exhibition of Italian artist Agostino Rocco.

Rocco's technically dazzling creations are in the portrait tradition, imbued with historical atmosphere and sobriety. On closer inspection, however, they reveal a subversive streak of humour and unexpected anachronisms that serve to disrupt our assumptions while remaining gorgeously seductive. Rocco thus manages to glide across two worlds, proposing classic images with a modern twist.

At the heart of the exhibition lies a series of paintings inspired by French Romantic painter Pierre-Paul Prud’hon’s *Portrait of a Young Man* to be found at the Louvre. Recalling Francis Bacon’s obsession with Veláquez’s *Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Rocco insistently reworks Prud’hon’s haunting picture in a cycle of increasing distortions that clearly depart from their source while still paying homage to the revered original.

**Agostino Rocco** was born in 1971 in Padua, the city where he still lives and works. Self-taught, Rocco has devoted himself to the study of art history and the work of certain Old Masters who have become a constant and vital source of inspiration: the Tuscan and Flemish artists of the 15th century, and the French and Dutch painters of the 17th century.

