

THOMAS CAMERON

URBAN SOLITUDE

07 November - 30 November 2026

Opening: 07 November - 4.00 pm

Luca Tommasi is pleased to announce Thomas Cameron's first solo exhibition in Italy, featuring six paintings on canvas in the gallery's Milan project room at Via Cola Montano 40.

The city has never been so close and, perhaps, we have never been so far apart. This paradox of our time is the starting point for ***Urban Solitude***, an exhibition by **Thomas Cameron**, a Scottish artist born in 1992 and based in London, who is emerging as one of the most compelling new voices in British figurative painting. Combining painterly sensitivity with a profound power of observation, his work explores the condition of the individual in the contemporary metropolis.

In his paintings, young men and women sit in bars, cafés and urban spaces, absorbed in their laptops or mobile phones. Around them, the city continues to live: lights illuminate interiors, windows reflect the streets, tables and chairs retain the promise of a possible encounter. And yet, an invisible distance seems to open up between these individuals and the world around them. They are connected and reachable, immersed in an incessant flow of communication, yet often estranged from the physical spaces they inhabit.

The solitude depicted by Cameron is not necessarily a matter of despair. It is a subtler, more familiar condition, composed of waiting, distraction, pauses and seemingly insignificant moments in which we can each recognise something of our own experience. Technology becomes a window onto the world and, at the same time, a threshold that separates us from it. It allows us to be anywhere in our minds, while our bodies remain still, physically present and elsewhere.

In works such as *Bar Interior*, *Laptop*, *Blank Street* and *Mirrors*, this tension takes shape through carefully considered compositions, contrasts of light and a palette that moves between the warmth of ochres and yellows and the deep blues and turquoise tones of screens and reflective surfaces. The figures, often absorbed in silent, introspective postures, emerge from environments constructed through substantial brushwork, chromatic layering and architectural geometries that fragment space and guide the viewer's gaze.

Cameron's work stems from his direct observation of the city and from photographs he takes himself while wandering through urban streets. In the transition from photography to oil painting, he selects and pares back elements of the scene, allowing what defines its atmosphere and narrative tension to emerge. The image is thus removed from the rapid consumption of visual content and returned to a slower rhythm: that of contemplation. Cameron invites us to pause before the very things we risk overlooking in everyday life.

A comparison with Edward Hopper, the great painter of urban solitude and the psychologically charged interiors of the twentieth century, is inevitable, but it does not fully encompass the distinctive nature of Cameron's work. If Hopper's paintings often seem to crystallise time in silence, Cameron's isolation coexists with permanent connectivity: the sense of distance arises not merely from the absence of others, but from

the possibility of being together without truly meeting. His painting addresses one of the deepest contradictions of contemporary life, without judgement or easy nostalgia.

Cameron does not depict exceptional characters or dramatic situations. He paints ordinary moments, modest gestures and figures we might encounter every day but rarely take the time to notice. It is precisely this quiet quality that makes his work so compelling: behind the blue glow of a phone, the reflection of a window or the warm light of a bar counter lies a shared condition, fragile and profoundly human.

Thomas Cameron (Helensburgh, Scotland, 1992) lives and works in London. He studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee and at the City & Guilds of London Art School. He is establishing himself as one of the emerging artists to watch in contemporary figurative painting. Selected for *Bloomberg New Contemporaries* in 2021 and 2023, he has been recognised among the *Rising Stars* of the Royal Society of British Artists and has participated in the BBA Art Prize in Berlin. His recent solo exhibitions include *City Scenes* and *What Happens When Nothing Happens* at Taymour Grahne Projects, as well as *Twenty-six days a year* at Canopy Collections, all in London. In 2026, he participated in *Lost and Found* at Gaia Art Space in Hong Kong, as part of a project by The Hartz Project, as well as having participated in numerous international group exhibitions in New York, Tokyo and Seoul. His work is held in international public and private collections, including the UK Government Art Collection, Morrison Foerster Collection in London and X Museum in Beijing.