

# SEAN KELLY

McClemont, Doug. "Laurent Grasso," *Art News*, November 2014.

## ARTNEWS



Laurent Grasso, *Studies into the past*,  
oil on wood panel, framed 34½" x 48½".

## LAURENT GRASSO

SEAN KELLY  
SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 18

The very dimly lit gallery for Laurent Grasso's exhibition "Soleil Double" concerned, perhaps paradoxically, illumination. What if there were not one sun, but two—the one that conveys light, and a less-benevolent, supernatural one. The imaginary two-sunned world would be magical but would harbor the potential for disrupting the order of things and our perception of time and place. Grasso's "imaginary disasters," were addressed in paint, neon, brass, marble, and video. Notions of time travel and synchronicity, in which past, present, and future come together, were at the conceptual core of the heady exhibition.

The small, minutely detailed, allegorical paintings, crafted by expert collaborators, were magnificent. Many of the wall works were in deep frames—pairings of Golden Age-style oil paintings set on oak panels with small neon numbers or dates beside them.

On the gallery's lower level was an 11-minute digitized film, *Soleil Double* (2014). The ominous underbelly of the exhibition, it was filmed in empty structures in a Roman district developed in the 1930s. Marble figures are set amid the fascistic architecture intended to be used for the 1942 World's Fair that was preempted by World War II.

Grasso's dual suns glare at the columns, and their rays creep through the arches. We sense that the future is certain to be uncertain. DOUG MCCLEMONT