



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2023

Impasta Handbags

New Paintings by John Avelluto

October 14 — November 25, 2023

Curated by Paul D'Agostino

Opening Reception | October 14, 3-6 PM

Artist Talk | John Avelluto with Joanne Mattera, November 11, 3-4 PM

Gallery Hours | Saturdays, 12-3 PM and by appointment

Essay by Paul D'Agostino [HERE](#)

BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN, NY — Artist John Avelluto is back at Stand4 Gallery for his third solo show, *Impasta Handbags*, opening October 14th. Avelluto's work engages his background as an Italian American and native Brooklynite. Through the lens of painting, this engagement examines the tropes, both linguistic and visual, of the artist's identities. Reflecting on the qualities of the acrylic medium, Avelluto explores the material's pictorial and sculptural plasticity. Shifts in language occur through displaced imagery, or as certain images rub up against diverse cultural entities and art historical precedents. Avelluto plays with, undermines, and confounds Italian American cultural stereotypes and touchstones, toying with the existing linguistic and visual repertoire of vernacular references that aren't regularly examined in painting. As curator Paul D'Agostino notes in his exhibition essay, "*Impasta Handbags* is Avelluto's thorough, vastly engaging upping of the ante in terms of material mastery, visual trickery, linguistic cleverness, cultural commentary, and layered, embedded punnery."

John Avelluto currently lives and works in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. He received his MFA at CUNY Brooklyn College, where he studied with Elizabeth Murray, Vito Acconci, William T Williams, and Jennifer McCoy. john-avelluto.com

Paul D'Agostino is an artist, writer, curator, translator, and educator, as well as founding director of Centotto, a curatorial project that now operates at large. centotto.com

Joanne Mattera is an artist, writer, and curator. Mattera's new book project, *Italianità*, brings together the work and stories of visual artists of Italian American descent. joannemattera.com

Stand4 was founded in January 2017 as an artist-run initiative. Housed in a former medical office in the heart of Bay Ridge, Stand4 brings visual arts and programming to the center of the community, opening up opportunities for social, political and cultural connections and creating a discourse that bridges culture and tradition and includes new voices towards a more sustainable future inspired by local interests.

Location / Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center, 414 78th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Hours / Saturday, 12-3 PM & by appointment.
Contact Jeannine Bardo to schedule an appointment.

Contact / Jeannine Bardo / jbardo.stand@gmail.com / (917) 842-7958

Website / stand4gallery.org

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