

Rue Américaine 13
1060 St. Gilles Brussels
www.rueamericaine13.com

Titanic

Stefano Faoro

23 January - 21 February 2026

Opening 23 January, 17:00 - 20:00

Titanic is one of the artworks in the exhibition. It's a shoebox from the brand Geox ("the breathing shoe") on which is written the word "Titanic" on all available sides (besides the bottom). On the box there is also the image of a shoe with all the steam coming out of the sole. It's very impressive. I thought *Titanic* would work as a title for the exhibition because I think it speaks to a sort of existential condition in which a certain number of different kinds of people spend some time in a space inside a vehicle, or a structure that moves and exists through an environment—which could be the ship, or something smaller like a car or an elevator, or something bigger like being part of a generation, or something like that.

All the artworks in the exhibition exist as autonomous pieces, meaning there's no installation, which is a bit of a change for me. I feel I've always thought about exhibitions as somehow works in themselves—many of my peers do that, maybe it's because of a shared education or something like that. It would be nice to give it a thought. But this time I felt I wanted to have the works as single entities, or at least try to do that as much as I could, because it was about time, and also my friend M. told me this great thing, she said something along the lines of "you need to show the artworks as single things because if you do it like this people will see how you think", which is such a great thing to say.

But I should admit that the artworks in the exhibition are not fully independent from each other, they are related in some way. Maybe I can say that they exist in space in which they are molded by a relation to a form—like a specific shape—and what this form can become if one thinks about it, like what shape it could take as a thought. And I think this space exists in between the artwork titled *Titanic* and another artwork that is titled *Why you should donate a kidney*.

I was thinking about kidneys and kidney/bean shaped things during the last months and I remembered a sort of poem I wrote in the spring of 2022 about kidney donation in the U.S. During those days I was listening to podcasts, and especially podcasts about American

Rue Américaine 13
1060 St. Gilles Brussels
www.rueamericaine13.com

politics, even though I am not one that usually listens to podcasts. But I was living and working in a studio as an artist in residency, and everybody tells you you should listen to podcasts while doing these sorts of things. So I was looking for stuff on different podcast platforms, and I found this podcast about liberal politics, and in it an episode about kidney donation. I listened to it hoping there would be some trace of the relation between neoliberal politics and healthcare—which was maybe interesting for me at the time—but I couldn't find anything like that. And I remember this feeling of looking for something and not finding it as a good idea for a painting about "circling around meaning"—which is a thing that can be related to the cars that are shown in the exhibition or also this thing of being inside a vehicle or even being a vehicle—an empty container of potential content. I also think that circling around something is my idea of a brushstroke. So I listened to the podcast a few times and took notes of what the speaker said, and thought it would be a good painting to print and glue the A4s on a poster size canvas. I wanted it to look like the kind of object, or art, that you see in hospitals' corridors, which is a place I always find interesting.

- Stefano Faoro