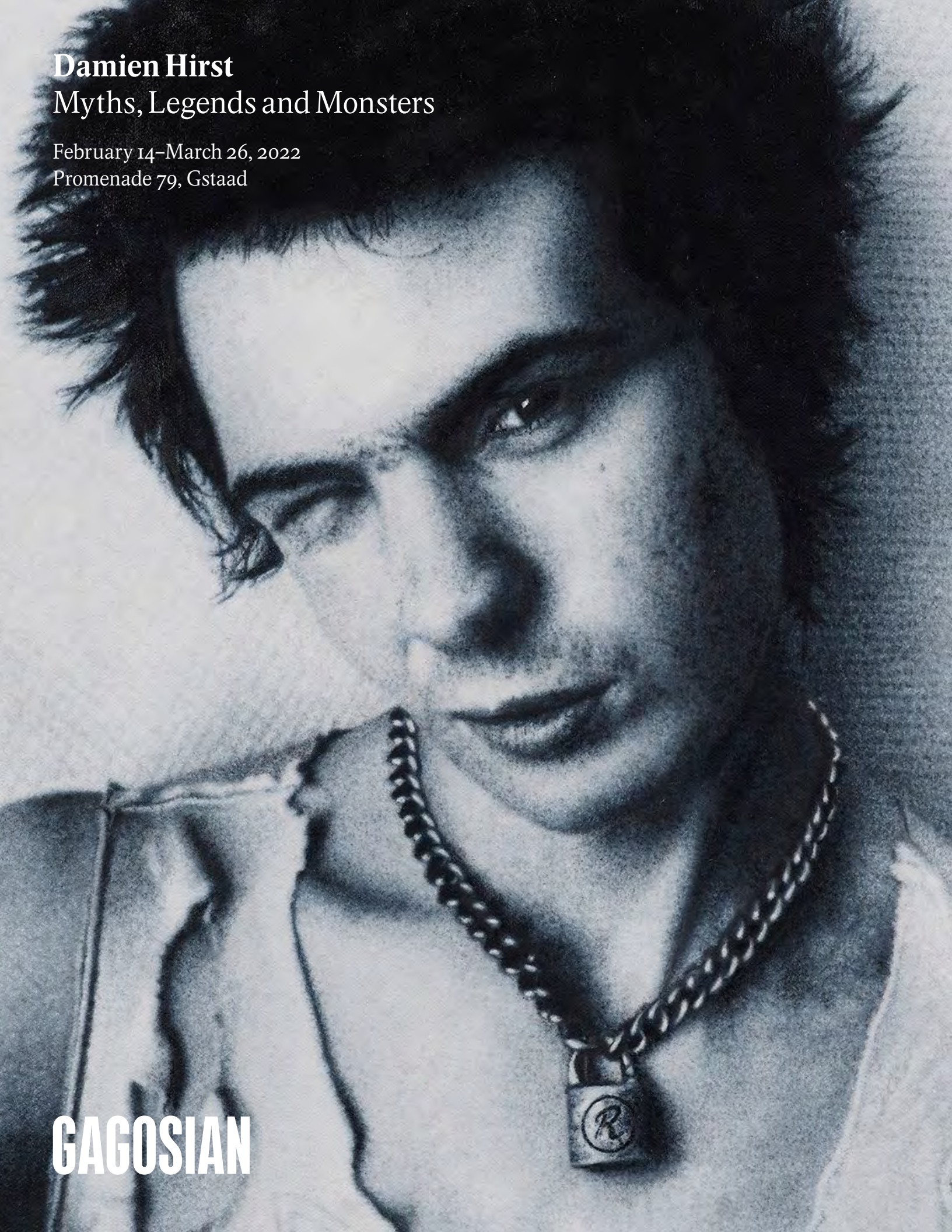


**Damien Hirst**  
Myths, Legends and Monsters

February 14–March 26, 2022  
Promenade 79, Gstaad

**GAGOSIAN**



# Inaugural Exhibition at Gagosian Gstaad Features Never-Before-Exhibited Works by **Damien Hirst** *Myths, Legends and Monsters* Is Open February 14 through March 26, 2022

*Art and fame together are like a desire to live forever.*

–Damien Hirst

Marking the opening of the new gallery in Gstaad, Gagosian is pleased to present *Myths, Legends and Monsters*, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Damien Hirst. Produced over the past fifteen years, these works have not previously been exhibited.

*Myths, Legends and Monsters* (2007–) is a series of monochromatic oil paintings that depict legendary artistic, political, and pop-cultural personalities including Jean-Michel Basquiat, David Bowie, Sharon Tate, and Andy Warhol. Reconsidering what makes such figures lastingly iconic, Hirst calls into question



Installation view,  
Damien Hirst:  
*Myths, Legends  
and Monsters*,  
Gagosian,  
Gstaad, 2022



Installation view,  
Damien Hirst:  
*Myths, Legends  
and Monsters*,  
Gagosian,  
Gstaad, 2022

contemporary notions of celebrity and identity, influence and notoriety. The series' subjects are all complex individuals—far from being straightforward heroes or villains, they possess aspects of all three elements of the title. “I tried to represent humanity—or, often, a lack of it—in all its facets,” Hirst explains.

By rendering the subjects of *Myths, Legends and Monsters* in black and white, Hirst introduces a powerful aura of nostalgia to the project, a persistent suggestion of fading memories and times past. He also establishes a striking contrast with the intense and varied color on display in other well-known bodies of his work such as the extensive Spot Paintings series and, more recently, the Veil paintings. “I felt a need to let the color drain away,” he notes, “and explore something more binary.” The exhibition’s pencil drawings, made after the paintings but of equal significance to the artist, underscore this exclusive focus.

*Myths, Legends and Monsters* is the most recent incarnation of Hirst’s Fact Paintings, which mimic photographs in oil on canvas, sometimes with scrupulous accuracy, at others reveling in the physical qualities of the medium. Fascinated by the implications of investing an extended period of artistic labor in the making of an image that was originally captured in a mere instant, Hirst presents these works as challenges to the obduracy of “fact” as a governing principle of perception. *Myths, Legends and Monsters* explores, as do the Fact Paintings as a whole, a dialogue between the brush and the camera as agents of “truth.”

DAMIEN HIRST: MYTHS, LEGENDS AND MONSTERS

#DamienHirst

Instagram: @DamienHirst

Twitter: @Hirst\_Official

#Gagosian

Instagram: @Gagosian

Twitter: @Gagosian

For press inquiries please contact Hallie Freer

+1 212 744 2313 | [hfreer@gagosian.com](mailto:hfreer@gagosian.com)



Installation view,  
*Damien Hirst:  
Myths, Legends  
and Monsters*,  
Gagosian,  
Gstaad, 2022



Damien Hirst, *David Bowie with Scissors*, 2019 (detail)

## About Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst was born in Bristol, England, and lives and works in London, Devon, and Gloucestershire, England. Collections include the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy; Museum Brandhorst, Munich; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid; Tate, London; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Art Institute of Chicago; The Broad, Los Angeles; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; and 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan.

Exhibitions include *Cornucopia*, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (2010); Tate Modern, London (2012); *Relics*, Qatar Museums Authority, Al Riwaq (2013); *Signification (Hope, Immortality and Death in Paris, Now and Then)*, Deyrolle, Paris (2014); Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2015); *The Last Supper*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2016); *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana, Venice (2017); *Damien Hirst at Houghton Hall: Colour Space Paintings and Outdoor Sculptures*, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, England (2019); *Mental Escapology*, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2021); *Cherry Blossoms*, Fondation Cartier, Paris (2021); and *Archaeology Now*, Galleria Borghese, Rome (2021). Hirst received the Turner Prize in 1995.



Damien Hirst, *Sharon Tate*, 2020 (detail)

## About Gagosian

Established by Larry Gagosian in Los Angeles in 1980, Gagosian is a global gallery specializing in modern and contemporary art that employs more than three hundred people at nineteen exhibition spaces across the United States, Europe, and Asia. In addition to its galleries, Gagosian is at the forefront of the digital marketplace with innovative online viewing rooms, timed to coincide with major art fairs, that include highly desirable works by today's leading artists, transparent pricing, historical scholarship, and insightful market analysis.

Gagosian works with a diverse array of marquee living artists, including Georg Baselitz, John Currin, Rachel Feinstein, Urs Fischer, Ellen Gallagher, Theaster Gates, Katharina Grosse, Mark Grotjahn, Jennifer Guidi, Andreas Gursky, Hao Liang, Michael Heizer, Damien Hirst, Jia Aili, Titus Kaphar, Anselm Kiefer, Rick Lowe, Vera Lutter, Sally Mann, Brice Marden, Takashi Murakami, Albert Oehlen, Giuseppe Penone, Richard Prince, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Nancy Rubins, Ed Ruscha, Jenny Saville, Richard Serra, Taryn Simon, Rudolf Stingel, Sarah Sze, Adriana Varejão, Jeff Wall, Mary Weatherford, Rachel Whiteread, and Jonas Wood, as well as masters of design Frank Gehry and Marc Newson.

From its inception, Gagosian has prepared and presented unparalleled museum-quality exhibitions of works by historical artists such as Arakawa, Diane Arbus, Richard Artschwager, Francis Bacon, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning, Walter De Maria, Lucio Fontana, Helen Frankenthaler, Alberto Giacometti, Howard Hodgkin, Roy Lichtenstein, Man Ray, Piero Manzoni, Agnes Martin, Claude Monet, Henry Moore, Jackson Pollock, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, Tom Wesselmann, and Zao Wou-Ki, among others. The gallery's groundbreaking Picasso exhibitions, curated by scholar John Richardson in New York and London, were attended by hundreds of thousands of visitors. In 2019, Larry Gagosian curated an exhibition featuring Picasso masterpieces as a tribute to Richardson following his death.

Since 1985, when Gagosian became the first gallery to establish a publishing house that produces a vast range of catalogues raisonnés, monographs, artist's books, scholarly exhibition catalogues, and limited editions, the gallery has published nearly six hundred titles, rivaling the output of traditional arts trade publishers. The print and online editions of the *Gagosian Quarterly* provide unique access to artists in their studios and homes through insightful interviews and profiles of and by leading art world professionals. The Gagosian Shop in New York curates



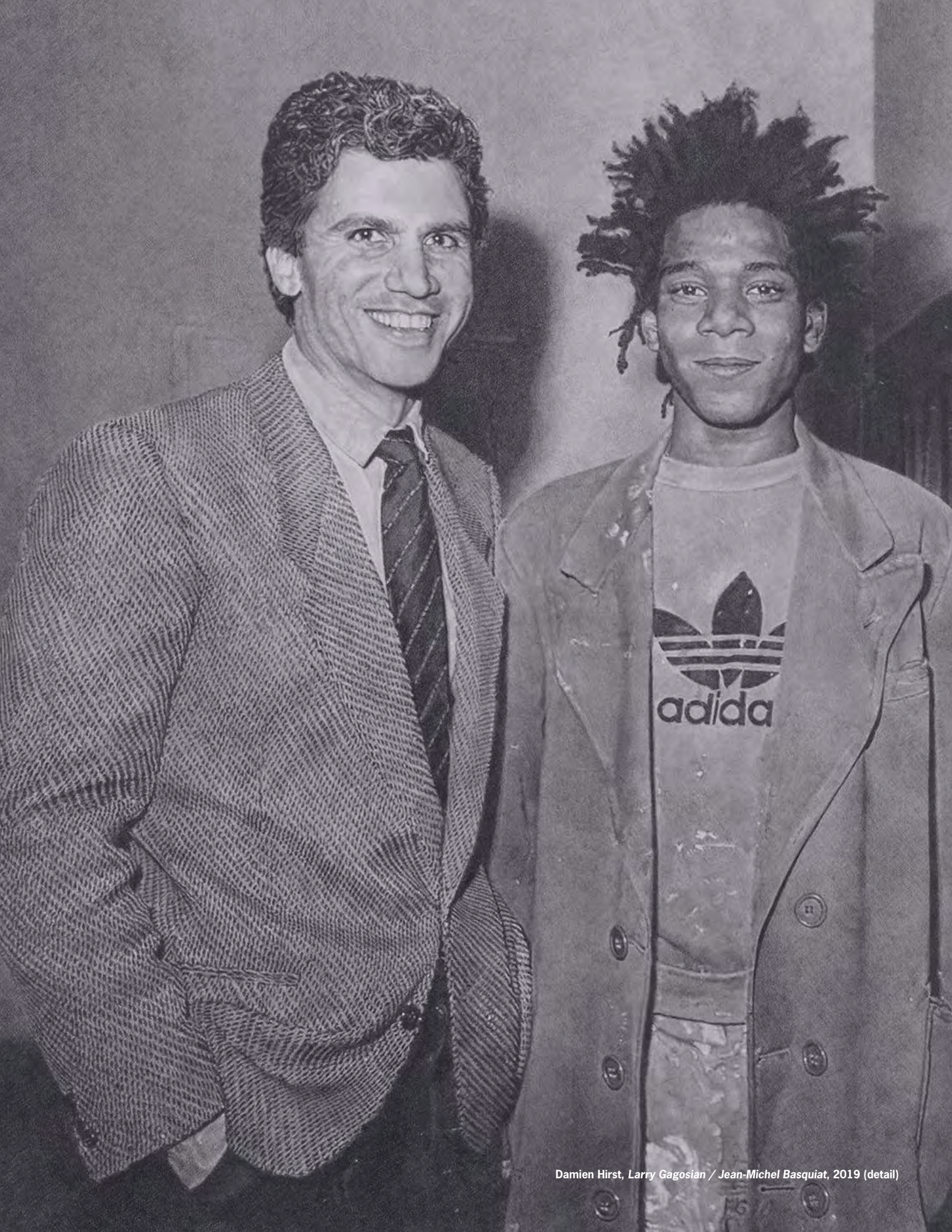
a coveted selection of rare books, art editions, unique collaborations, posters, jewelry, apparel, and Leica cameras.

Gagosian has long developed cultural programming and events with artists, including performances, exhibition tours, public talks, film screenings, and studio visits. The gallery has long been committed to working with and advising artists on all aspects of their legacy planning. In 2018 the gallery launched its Building a Legacy program, bringing together artists and their studio staff with experts in the field of artists' estates, nonprofit foundations, and legacy stewardship through a series of symposia.

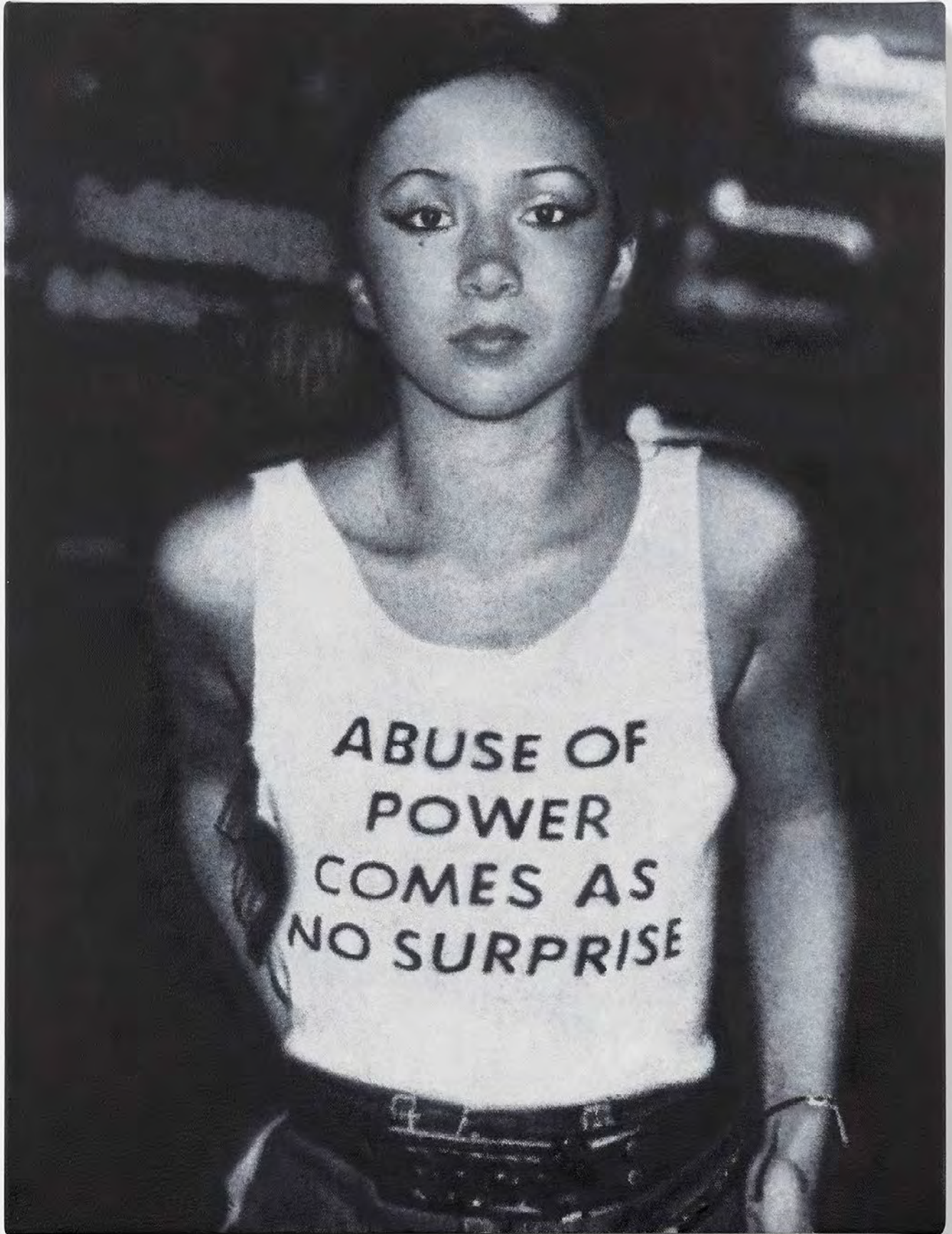
With exhibition spaces designed by world-renowned architects such as Caruso St John, Richard Gluckman, Richard Meier, Jean Nouvel, Selldorf Architects, and wHY Architecture, Gagosian is able to show a wide range of compelling projects—including work as varied as Jenny Saville's painterly depictions of the human form, Richard Serra's iconic monumental sculptures and drawings, and a re-creation of Roy Lichtenstein's site-specific and temporary wall painting *Greene Street Mural*.

*Hours: Monday–Sunday 11–6*

*Please visit [gagosian.com](http://gagosian.com) for further details*



Damien Hirst, Larry Gagosian / Jean-Michel Basquiat, 2019 (detail)



Damien Hirst, *Abuse of Power Comes as No Surprise... Lady Pink/Jenny Holzer*, 2020



Damien Hirst, *Atomic Bomb*, 2019



Damien Hirst, *Joan*, 2019

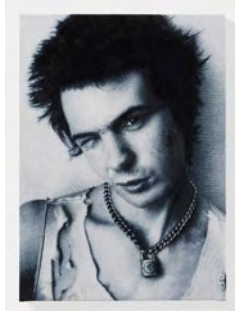


Damien Hirst, *Shot Warhol*, 2019

# Press Images

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Damien Hirst, *Sid*, 2016  
Oil on canvas  
16 x 11 1/2 inches  
(40.6 x 29.2 cm)  
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Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd  
Courtesy Gagosian



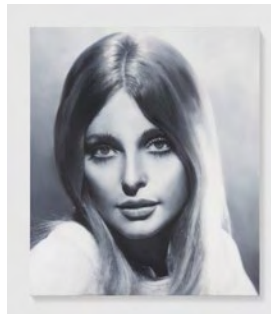
Damien Hirst, *Indian Rope Trick*, 2016  
Oil on canvas  
30 x 20 inches  
(76.2 x 50.8 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Warhol and Basquiat*, 2021  
Oil on canvas  
36 x 36 inches  
(91.4 x 91.4 cm)  
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Courtesy Gagosian



Damien Hirst, *Abuse of Power Comes as No Surprise... Lady Pink/Jenny Holzer*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
18 3/8 x 13 7/8 inches  
(46.5 x 35.1 cm)  
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Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd. Courtesy Gagosian



Damien Hirst, *Sharon Tate*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 20 1/2 inches  
(61 x 52 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Marlon Brando*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 19 1/2 inches  
(61 x 49.5 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Atomic Bomb*, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
96 1/8 x 72 1/8 inches  
(244 x 183 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Joan*, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
40 x 30 1/4 inches  
(101.6 x 76.9 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Shot Warhol*, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
60 1/4 x 43 inches  
(153 x 109.1 cm)  
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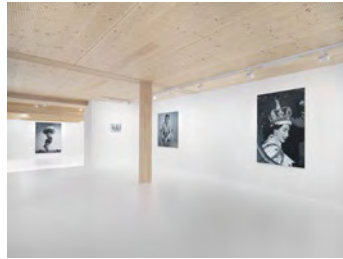
Damien Hirst, *David Bowie with Scissors*, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
48 x 48 inches  
(121.9 x 121.9 cm)  
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Damien Hirst, *Burning Monk 2*, 2018  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 30 7/8 inches  
(61 x 78.5 cm)  
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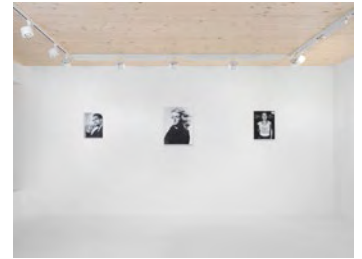
Installation view, *Damien Hirst: Myths, Legends and Monsters*, Gagosian, Gstaad, 2022  
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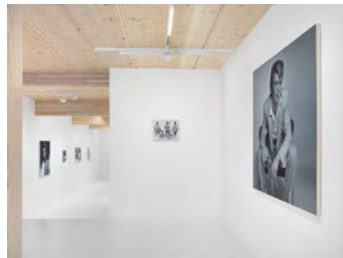
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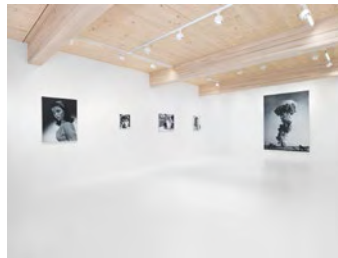
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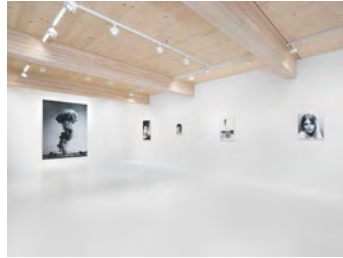
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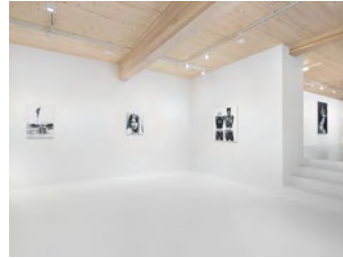
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