

# GAVLAK

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## IN LATEST WORKS, NIR HOD PROVIDES SURFACES FOR REFLECTION AND MEDITATION

*Centering chrome as the star of his works, Hod's layered pieces evade categorization and place the viewer as shifting subject*

**PALM BEACH, FLA.** — **GAVLAK** is proud to present *Exile*, an exhibition of image-based works by Israeli-born NYC-based multidisciplinary artist **Nir Hod**, on view from **April 1 to April 21, 2022**. Akin to both daguerreotypes and the works of old masters, this body of work presents new figurations in which the symbolic and figurative are fused together into abstract, yet deeply human, forms.

Hod's latest exhibition explores notions of melancholy, loss and remembrance, to produce works that *can't quite be* categorized as paintings. Hod's creative practice always begins within the bounds of a chosen setting from which the artist conjures emotion and visual narrative. Abandoned institutions such as hospitals and churches provide an atmosphere instinctually congruous to the pondering of destruction and rebirth, themes of which are foregrounded in his highly-interactive pieces.

Painting on oil canvases with layers of black, green, gray and chrome—and consequently peeling back said layers to expose flashes of light embedded within the darkness—each of Hod's pieces undergo an extensive process of transformation before the desired narrative can be brought to life. Here, compounds such as ammonia, gasoline and various acids lend themselves to the evolution of the works by evoking sentiments of fragility and annihilation. The mirrored nature of the pieces works to place the viewer within the present moment, ultimately moving the audience to consider the ephemeral nature of the human experience. The resulting works are surfaces of reflection and meditation—mutating pieces which become evermore figurative the closer one gets.

Analyzing notions of duality and artificiality, *Exile* invites viewers to create novel narratives in sites of destruction. In the complex exercise that is the creation of these works, Hod alchemizes what is dense and dangerous into something much more delicate. To look into the layers and see oneself is to approach with care.

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## **ABOUT NIR HOD**

Nir Hod began his career in video, works in sculpture but is known for his high realism paintings. Hod studied at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy and New York's Cooper Union School of Art. His work investigates old notions of hyper-seriousness and personal authenticity. Hod's realistic takes on rakish narcissism examine androgyny, identity, sexual confusion and excess. As Richard Vine wrote in the catalogue for Hod's survey exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, "From the beginning of his career, Nir Hod has opposed the ideology that labels sumptuousness an esthetic sin. His work openly substitutes the pleasure principle and a fluid multiplicity of selves for the old notions of high seriousness and personal authenticity." In his recent series of "Genius" paintings and sculptures, Hod depicted aristocratic young men and women whose cherubic cheeks contrast with their scornful expressions and smoldering cigarettes.

## **ABOUT GAVLAK**

GAVLAK is an internationally recognized contemporary art gallery with locations in Palm Beach, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Founded by Sarah Gavlak in 2005, the gallery represents more than 20 acclaimed artists, primarily focusing on the representation of women, LGBTQ+ and artists of color. Throughout the last two decades GAVLAK has staged highly conceptual, pioneering exhibitions, including early solo presentations by Wade Guyton, Simone Leigh, Marilyn Minte, and Betty Tompkins. In 2014, the gallery expanded to Los Angeles, taking on representation for artists Candida Alvarez, Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.), April Bey, Karen Carson and Gisela Colón. Since opening, GAVLAK has regularly frequented international art fairs, facilitated solo museum exhibitions, and participated in seasonal institutional programs including the Whitney and Hammer Biennials.