

# GAGOSIAN

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Gagosian to Present *By the Love of Those Unloved*—the Gallery’s Debut Exhibition by Stanley Whitney in New York

Opening on May 8, and Coinciding with Artist’s Retrospective at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum

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Stanley Whitney, *Peaches*, 2023, oil on linen, 96 × 96 inches (243.8 × 243.8 cm) © Stanley Whitney. Photo: Maris Hutchinson

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**NEW YORK, April 15, 2024**—Gagosian is pleased to announce *By the Love of Those Unloved*, the gallery’s first exhibition of work by Stanley Whitney in New York. Featuring new paintings and works on paper, the exhibition is on view at 980 Madison Avenue from May 8 through June 22.

A master colorist, Whitney takes an exploratory and lyrical approach to painting. Each of his canvases is structured as a loose grid of rectilinear blocks in three or four rows. Laying down one vivid color at a time, the artist establishes relationships between each area, its neighbors, and the composition as a whole, employing gestural brushwork to juxtapose hues applied with varied degrees of opacity. Between each row are linear bands that ground the composition and sometimes extend the tones of

individual blocks. Inspired by jazz, Whitney defines a space within which to improvise, each painting setting a unique group of chromatic and spatial harmonies in motion.

*Peaches* (2023) is dominated by the warm pinks and oranges suggested by its title, which stand in contrast to the cooler blues, blacks, and greens with which they are paired. Spanning ten feet in width, *As Wild as the World 2* (2023) reveals the visual impact of scale in conjunction with Whitney's iterative technique. *High Hopes* (2024) is a study in contrasts, with complementary pairs of red/green and orange/blue pressing against one another. The loose brushstrokes and more muted tones at the top and bottom of *Tribute to Billie* (2024) establish a sonorous composition that evokes the expressive power and vulnerability of its namesake, Billie Holiday.

With an unwavering commitment to abstraction, Whitney uses titles that resonate with his inspirations: art and architecture, poetry and music, contemporary issues and observations. On the title of this exhibition, he notes: "I first read this line in a poem in Rome in 1994 and used it as the title of a painting that year. The line stayed with me, and I ended up using it for the title of another painting in 2004. Now, thirty years later, those words seem to resonate with the time we're living in more than ever."

*By the Love of Those Unloved* coincides with *How High the Moon* at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, the first retrospective to trace the evolution of Whitney's abstractions over forty-five years. On view in Buffalo, New York, through May 26, 2024, the exhibition will travel to the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2024–25), and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2025). Spanning the entirety of Whitney's career, *How High the Moon* includes paintings, drawings, prints, and sketchbooks.

**Stanley Whitney** was born in 1946 in Philadelphia, and lives and works in New York and Parma, Italy. Collections include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Buffalo AKG Art Museum, NY; Philadelphia Museum of Art; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. Solo exhibitions include *Recent Works*, A.A.M. Architettura Arte Moderna, Rome (2004); *Six Paintings*, Omi International Arts Center, Ghent, NY (2012); *Dance the Orange*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2015); *FOCUS*, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX (2016); *The Italian Paintings*, Palazzo Tiepolo Passi, Venice (2022); and *Dance with Me Henri*, Baltimore Museum of Art (2022–23). Whitney participated in Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel, Germany, in 2017.

#StanleyWhitney

## STANLEY WHITNEY

*By the Love of Those Unloved*

Opening reception: Wednesday, May 8, 6–8pm

May 8–June 22, 2024

980 Madison Avenue, New York

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