

Sasha Gordon
Haze

September 25–November 1, 2025
533 West 19th Street, New York



Sasha Gordon, *It Was Still Far Away*, 2024
© Sasha Gordon. Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner, New York

David Zwirner is pleased to present *Haze*, the gallery's first solo exhibition with New York-based artist Sasha Gordon since the announcement of her co-representation with Matthew Brown last year. Opening at the gallery's 533 West 19th Street location in New York, this exhibition debuts a cycle of new paintings by Gordon that experiment with storytelling as they uncover the origin myth of her narrative worlds.

In her hyperrealistic paintings, Gordon often renders her own likeness, conveying the self and its many guises through translucent layers of oils in electric hues. Executed with technical precision, the artist's

visceral compositions treat her own corporeal form as an unorthodox avatar that communicates subjective, psychological experience. Gordon lets her surreal narratives unfold intuitively on the canvas, depicting bodies in sometimes absurd scenarios or disorienting spatial compositions and portraying faces that translate a range of feelings. In illuminating detail, she reimagines fragments extracted from her inner life while boldly envisioning worlds within worlds that bear uncanny resemblance to our own. Complicating the genre of self-portraiture and engaging the canon of art history, her work expresses multiple psychic registers at once, addressing viewers with a candor that is both familiar and unsettling in its intimacy.

Encompassing a full narrative, the paintings in *Haze* pit Gordon's alter ego against three antagonists in a horror plot that uncovers the artist's disparate yet interlocking personas. The exhibition title communicates ambiguity and confusion—themes that are woven throughout Gordon's compositions—and suggests the complex nature of reconciling one's many selves. This chronicle is gleaned from classical mythology, contemporary East Asian cinema, and the artist's own stirring visions and memories, evincing timeworn notions of how one grapples with the self and unknown, as well as with the lingering residue of past lives.

Reflecting these influences, the works on view chart the protagonist's dreamlike voyage with bouts of terror and humor. The cycle opens with *It Was Still Far Away* (2024), in which an inexplicable explosion illuminates the sky orange-red behind the main character who embodies the "final girl" trope of horror films. Later, amid the chaos, she discovers a cabal of antagonists who look like her and subsequently torture her in increasingly frightening tableaux that take place in a nondescript upstate New York locale.

Throughout this body of work, Gordon deftly pictures bodies in violent motion and renders minute details with precision, foregrounding the ornamental and the grotesque. The protagonist is force-fed in *Husbandry Heaven* (2025), her captor's expression hesitant as fine particles of ash from the explosion shower their wrinkled, waxen skin. The story reaches its denouement in *Pruning* (2025): As the main character is trapped in an aquarium and held underwater by an antagonist, her knees press up against the surface of the tank and crack the fragile glass. Her eyes are wide open and fearful as she confronts the imminent possibility of death. Among these large-scale paintings, Gordon intersperses small portraits that likewise probe the emotional facets of her characters, both hinting at and obscuring their motivations.

In these works, the familiar is transformed ever so slightly, creating uncanny scenes that vibrate with the latent anxieties of our moment. The ordinary is made strange, and the strange is made ordinary. Juxtaposing narrative scenes with moments of interiority, Gordon endeavors to acknowledge how we take in the world around us, in all its darkness and mystery, while simultaneously engaging the oneiric qualities of everyday life.

Sasha Gordon was born in Somers, New York, in 1998. She received a BA from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, in 2020.

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, presented a solo exhibition of Gordon's work titled *Surrogate Self* from 2023 to 2024. Other recent solo presentations featuring the artist's work include *The Flesh*

Disappears, But Continues To Ache, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London (2023); *Hands of Others*, Jeffrey Deitch, New York (2022); and *Enters Thief*, Matthew Brown, Los Angeles (2021).

Her work has been included in group presentations including *Overflow, Afterglow: New Work in Chromatic Figuration*, Jewish Museum, New York (2024), and *Heroic Bodies*, Rudolph Tegn timers Museum og Statuepark, Dronningmølle, Denmark (2022). From 2023 to 2025, a work by Gordon was part of *Love Languages*, a thematic collection display installed at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

In 2024, David Zwirner announced the representation of the artist in collaboration with Matthew Brown, New York and Los Angeles.

Gordon's work is held in the Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville, Arkansas; Baltimore Museum of Art; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, California; Dallas Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Jewish Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

The artist lives and works in New York.

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