

GAGOSIAN

Gagosian to Present Nan Goldin's *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* Photography Installation in London, from January 2026

UK Debut Marks Forty Years Since Volume Was First Published



Nan Goldin, *Skeletons coupling, New York City (1983)* from *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, 1973–86, 126 archival pigment prints, in frames, each: 15 3/4 x 11 x 1 1/8 inches (40 x 27.9 x 2.9 cm), overall dimensions variable, edition of 10 © Nan Goldin

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LONDON, December 10, 2025—Gagosian is pleased to announce an exhibition of all 126 photographs from Nan Goldin's genre-defining photobook *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*. Opening January 13, 2026, at the Davies Street gallery, the presentation marks the first time the entire body of work will be shown in the United Kingdom. The exhibition coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the volume, which Goldin described at the time as “the diary I let people read.”

Created between 1973 and 1986, *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* is an incisive reflection on gender, intimacy, and power, widely regarded as Goldin's magnum opus. Forty years after its publication, the photographs not only define the era of downtown New York in which they were made but have also influenced decades of visual culture and artists around the world. Goldin notes: “I don't select people in order to photograph them; I photograph directly from my life. These pictures come out

of relationships, not observation. They are an invitation to my world, but now they have become a record of the generation that was lost. To show *The Ballad* in its entirety forty years after I published the book is to reaffirm that desire for transformation and the difficulty of connection and coupling are still true to our world. I'm still impressed that generation after generation finds their own stories in *The Ballad*, keeping it alive."

Shot in the vibrancy of real life and everyday spaces, Goldin's formally and chromatically radical approach upended the status quo and helped to move photography from the margins into the center of contemporary art discourse. *The Ballad* was Goldin's manifesto and opening salvo in a decades-long career that asserted a new potential for the photographic image.

First conceived as a slideshow accompanied by a diverse soundtrack that emphasizes its operatic nature, *The Ballad* debuted in New York nightclubs and public art exhibitions before its publication by Aperture in 1986. The first of Goldin's many books, it is now in its twenty-third printing and remains one of the most formative photobooks ever produced.

This Will Not End Well, a major traveling retrospective devoted to Goldin's moving-image work, is at Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, through February 15, 2026, and will travel to the Grand Palais, Paris, from March 18 to June 21, 2026. Her multimedia slideshow *Stendhal Syndrome* is on view at the Vancouver Art Gallery in Canada through April 12, 2026.

For Nan Goldin's biographical information and exhibition history, please visit gagosian.com.

#NanGoldin

NAN GOLDIN

The Ballad of Sexual Dependency

Opening reception: Tuesday, January 13, 6–8pm

January 13–March 21, 2026

17–19 Davies Street, London

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