

GLADSTONE

Seth Becker's Solo Exhibition with Gladstone Opens in Brussels in January

Presentation features 15 new paintings grappling with grief, reflection, and transformation

In January 2026, Gladstone Gallery in Brussels will present an exhibition of new work by Seth Becker. The exhibition titled *Skunks Misery Road* is the first European presentation of the Hudson Valley-based artist. The installation will feature 15 new small-format painted works on wood panel, linked by the time and emotional intensity in which they were made. Created during a period of profound personal upheaval, these paintings reflect a chapter defined by grief, transformation, and interior reckoning—marking a shift in Becker's relationship to painting and self.

The title of the exhibition refers to Skunks Misery Road, a rural road in the Hudson Valley, the region where Becker has lived and worked for the past five years and served as the backdrop to the most fraught years of his life. Through these new works, the skunk becomes a strange, intimate symbol for a lost relationship, and for the instability and metamorphosis that grief demands.

Painted on salvaged barn wood sourced from across the Hudson Valley, the works embody Becker's complex relationship with the region. The wood functions both as material and metaphor, freeing Becker of the labor of manipulating surface and instead letting the paint assert its own voice. The works include elements of collage and recurring motifs—stars falling to earth, skeletons, a nurse shark, anthropomorphized suns and moons, landscapes that shift from the terrestrial to the metaphysical—each painting emerging from the one before it.

Tender and macabre, humorous and spiritual, Becker's approach resonates with his deep engagement with art history and his affinity for painters such as Ensor, Bruegel, Goya, Rembrandt, and Chardin, artists unafraid to preserve roughness of touch or emotional vulnerability. His paintings balance sentiment with sentimentality, leaning into wonder and seeking to preserve a way of looking at both the world and the natural environment that resists cynicism.

While the works arise from grief, *Skunks Misery Road* ultimately embodies transformation and looking forward: a process of letting go, and a painterly language built through sensation rather than message, reflecting Becker's view of painting as an embodied practice shaped by material experiment and improvisation.

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Exhibition Details

Seth Becker

Skunks Misery Road

January 15 — February 28, 2026

Gladstone Gallery Brussels

Rue du Grand Cerf 12

1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery is recognized for its embrace of experimentation and visionary practices. The gallery has long been an active partner with artists pursuing catalytic ideas and engaging with pressing issues. Headquartered in New York, Gladstone's impact extends globally with galleries in Brussels and Seoul, enabling it to present new bodies of work and evolve its program to advance the practices and reach of its artists through time. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is a steward of the legacies of pivotal historical artists and an advocate for the enduring power of their work. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

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