



Gentle Doom: Filip Lav

June 1st - June 29th, 2023

Project Gallery V

New York City, N.Y., June 1st, 2023 | Project Gallery V presents *Gentle Doom: Filip Lav* a solo exhibition featuring 12 works.

Filip Lav (b. 1991, Vienna) lives and works between London and Vienna. In 2012 he received his BFA from The Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University, UK; in 2016, he was awarded an MFA in painting from Columbia School of Art, New York, USA. In 2023 he was invited to a residency at the Turps Banana School in London, starting this fall. Recent solo exhibitions include *Minus Offspace*, Vienna (2021).

Filip Lav's paintings are embodied contradictions, a paradox consisting of equal amounts of irony and sincerity. His images all draw on a hybrid of visual sources, ranging from contemporary pop culture to BDSM and the Secessionist aesthetics of Fin de Siècle Vienna. The figures cast in Lav's painting are often framed in theatrical stage sets where conflicting belief systems get acted out.

For example, his work "Bloomers" derives from an absurdist internet meme wherein a suicidal Gen Z figure bemoans its stereotypical existence. Lav recasts this internet trope as two lovers engaged in a violent, sexual act where the line between fake play and actual death is unclear. These contradictions are equally mirrored in the methods and processes he employs. Lav's paintings play with perceptions of speed, time, and labor. Often, spontaneous and expressive elements are highly planned and worked on. As a result, the attention and care are often not attributed to the traditional subject matter.

The figures are frequently painted flat, while their backgrounds are highly layered. In this way, his painting process is a performative paradox, where one can encounter various displacements of speed and slowness, planning, and spontaneity. Nothing is what it appears at first glance. The gestural drawings are highly choreographed, while the bold brushstrokes are carefully multi-layered surfaces.

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