

Jonathan Niclaus

“From Near and Far”

In his latest works from the exhibition, From Near and Far, Niclaus delves into the exploration of proximity and retreat through an extensive series of textured works. This collection reflects on the complex interplay of shadow and light, capturing both visible surfaces and their hidden undertones.

Utilizing acrylic, oil and graphite on canvas, Niclaus engages in overpainting — a process that embodies both creation and destruction. This technique allows for constant evolution; sometimes sacrificing beloved elements to forge new paths on the canvas. This act of letting go underscores the urge of leaving behind the familiar to embrace the new and unknown.

Niclaus's paintings play with accident and intent. Spontaneous elements disrupt and enhance planned compositions. This ongoing dialogue between control and chance reflects life's unpredictability and the acts of beauty that occasionally arise from it.

The influence of classical music, particularly the compositions of Beethoven, plays a pivotal role in Niclaus's artistic methodology. Just as Beethoven's music dynamically shifts between loud and quiet, fast and slow, Niclaus's painting technique mirrors these variations with big shapes contrasted against small ones, rapid strokes versus measured, deliberate applications, and the interplay of strong, vibrant colors with subtle hues.

From Near and Far explores the depths of Niclaus's work, encouraging viewers to perceive the paintings not just as visual artifacts but as living entities that embody the rhythm, movement, and transitions of a human existence that is inextricably embedded into a moving and raging cosmos.

Niclaus contemplates this concept of motion and perspective, noting, “We perceive time as a constant, but it's really the most abstract, and human-made, of concepts. Our lives are a mere second compared to the age of the universe. It is this notion of being lost and sheltered that I wish to capture in my images. For a single second, the idea of continuity is questioned. The viewer becomes the universe itself, observing the painting and, for a fleeting moment, simultaneously zooms into and out of their lives.”



June-1, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in





January-1, 2023
Acrylic, graphite and oil on canvas
180 x 165 cm; 70.8 x 61 in



April-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
200 x 155 cm; 78.7 x 61 in





April-1, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in





March-2, 2024
Acrylic and graphite on canvas
95 x 130 cm, 37.4 x 51.1 in



June-2, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in





December-2, 2024
Acrylic and graphite on canvas
95 x 130 cm, 37.4 x 51.1 in



August-1, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
200 x 175 cm, 78.7 x 68.9 in



March-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
30 x 24 cm; 11.8 x 9.4 in





January-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
240 x 180 cm; 94,4 x 70,8 in







June-1, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in



January-1, 2023
Acrylic, graphite and oil on canvas
180 x 165 cm; 70.8 x 61 in



April-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
200 x 155 cm; 78.7 x 61 in



April-1, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in



March-2, 2024
Acrylic and graphite on canvas
95 x 130 cm, 37.4 x 51.1 in



June-2, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in



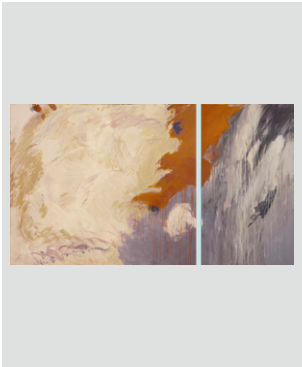
December-2, 2024
Acrylic and graphite on canvas
95 x 130 cm, 37.4 x 51.1 in



August-1, 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
200 x 175 cm, 78.7 x 68.9 in



March-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
30 x 24 cm; 11.8 x 9.4 in



July-1, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
180 x 155 cm; 70.8 x 61 in,
90 x 155 cm; 35,4 x 61 in



January-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
240 x 180 cm; 94,4 x 70,8 in



August-2, 2024
Acrylic and oil on canvas
240 x 180 cm; 94,4 x 70,8 in



February-2, 2024
Acrylic, graphite and oil on canvas
100 x 200 cm; 39.3 x 78.7 in,
100 x 200 cm; 39.3 x 78.7 in

Jonathan Niclaus

Jonathan Niclaus, (b. 1992, Düsseldorf), is a German painter based in Berlin. In his previous career Niclaus worked as an illustrator, designer, and art director. Over time, he developed a unique style that led to collaborations with clients such as Aesop, Veuve Clicquot, Nike, A Kind of Guise and has created murals and reliefs for restaurants and hotels throughout Europe. Studying the medium of paint more and more, Niclaus transitioned to pursuing it full-time in 2019.

With each canvas, Niclaus creates a portal, weaving together technical prowess and profound emotional insight. The concept of his first solo exhibition in 2023 'Dickicht'—a dense, intricately woven thicket—is brought to life as a visual paradox, part barrier, part stencil, offering shifting perspectives and then veiling them. His following exhibition 'From Near to Far' expands upon the concepts introduced in his debut showcase.

In his paintings, Jonathan invites viewers into a world where every element converges. The scenes are passages through tangled branches and trunks, leading to ivory clearings dappled with the changing transparencies of leaves. Bursts of pure color punctuate the landscape, creating a dynamic contrast. His use of color crafts layers upon layers, guiding the gaze in a fluid descent through the canvas.

His work celebrates an exuberant vitality within a sequential arrangement, where there is no hierarchy. Foliage, fauna, and emotions intermingle, depicting a world where decay and rebirth coexist in harmony. His paintings evoke the essence of a mythological forest, encapsulated within the crystalline, rectangular confines of the canvas. Jonathan's artistry lies in his ability to capture the complex interplay of nature and emotion, presenting it in a form that resonates with the viewer's own experiences and perceptions.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023
'DICKICHT',
VON RACKNITZ + BAER GALLERY, BERLIN
OKT. 12TH 2023 - NOV. 12TH 2023

2024
'FROM NEAR AND FAR'
VON RACKNITZ + BAER GALLERY, VIENNA
JUN. 7TH 2024- JUN. 16TH 2024

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024
'HOT SUMMER DAYS - HOT ART'
LUKAS FEICHTNER GALERIE, VIENNA
JUL. 4TH 2024- AUG. 29TH 2024