

JUPITER

Dan Flanagan: The Last Generation
Jupiter
January 14 - February 10, 2024
Opening reception: January 14, 6-8 PM
1217 71st Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141



Miami — January 6, 2024 — **Jupiter** is pleased to present *The Last Generation*, the first solo exhibition in Florida by Brooklyn-based artist **Dan Flanagan** and his debut with the gallery. Featuring seven new, never-before-seen paintings, the exhibition continues Flanagan's practice of expressive mark-making that simultaneously draws upon innate creative impulses, art historical precedents—specifically Abstract Expressionism—and the gritty hallmarks of the graffitied city he calls home.

The Last Generation unfolds across the gallery as a visual poem, trading in allusion and ambiguity the paintings evade any linear narrative while conjuring powerful resonances that encourage existential meditation on questions of life and death, hope and faith, tragedy and joy—shared spiritual struggles that define the human condition. As embodiments of these binaries, each

painting serves as a sort of personage, which in tandem with one another could be construed as something like a generation.

The painting which gave the exhibition its title is a vibrant yellow canvas beset by tactile marks in neon pink, cobalt, and orange oil paint that are counterbalanced by rougher gestures in softer pastel hues that engender an unexpended sense of depth within an otherwise flat visual field. Suggestive of movement, blurred by passing time and distance, these gestures which recede into the background contrast sharply with the louder and more hasty turns of the artist hand in the foreground and in aggregate may allude to an excited crowd, a frenzied encounter, the bustle of a Brooklyn street.

This fluidity of interpretation persists amongst the other works on view, and particularly conjures, within *He is a Liar* (2023), *The Last Breath that's True* (2023), and *To an Unknown God* (2023), that same existential quandary that guides Flanagan's practice. Some might see three visages float up out of the milky depths of the latter painting, others might see only one or none at all, but the distinct presence created by Flanagan's somewhat out of focus spray-painted lines is enough to convince anyone that a phantom lurks here among this inscrutable composition for an inscrutable God.

But are viewers to trust the artist's assertions, is he a true voice of this veritable generation to which the exhibition speaks, and can he be a reliable narrator for such quandaries that are larger than life? Or, rather, might *He is a Liar* be a self portrait and as such an admission that by the sheer fact of its translation through words or images all expression requires interpretation? Perhaps then, to this last generation of which Flanagan speaks, he has issued a resounding statement of trust in our ability not only to recognize, but to understand and appreciate, one another.

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About the Artist

Dan Flanagan (b. 1983, Madison, Wisconsin) studied at the New York Studio School prior to earning his BFA from Kansas City Art Institute in 2008. His work has been exhibited at Harper's, New York (2021); EXPO Chicago, (2021); Mulherin Toronto, Canada (2019); BBQLA, Los Angeles, CA (2019 and 2017); and Marvin Gardens, Ridgewood, NY (2018). Flanagan is represented by Harper's; he currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Caption: Dan Flanagan, *The Last Breath that's True*, 2023 Oil, acrylic, spray on canvas 78 by 60 in. 198.12 by 152.4 cm. (DF003) © Dan Flanagan. Courtesy of the artist and Jupiter, Miami Beach, FL

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