

Robert Nava: After Hours

March 14 – April 26, 2025
540 West 25th Street
New York



Robert Nava, *BLISS Daydream Dragon*, 2024 © Robert Nava, courtesy Pace Gallery.

New York – Pace is pleased to present *After Hours*, an exhibition of new work by Robert Nava, at its 540 West 25th Street gallery in New York. On view from March 14 to April 26, the show will span the gallery's second and seventh floors, bringing together new paintings of various scales, including three monumental 8 x 13 foot canvases, and a selection of works on paper.

Populated by a cast of hybrid bodies, at once mythic and everyday, Nava's paintings and drawings navigate the space between the raw and the refined. Often imbued with a sense of philosophical and psychological charge, his figures suggest a dark, contemplative, and existential mood despite their vibrancy, liveliness, and humor. Nava takes inspiration for his distinctive lexicon of characters and forms from a diverse range of sources, from ancient art, mythology, and religion to horror films, science fiction, video games, and cartoons. Bold and lively, his works do not adhere to any kind of linear narrative—they are fantastical scenes of beauty and chaos that invite viewers to reconnect with the unbridled imagination of their childhoods.

"I don't consciously revisit my fears, but after I paint, I feel a therapeutic sense of getting things out of me subconsciously," Nava has said of his intuitive process.

The artist's upcoming exhibition with Pace in New York will spotlight never-before-seen paintings and drawings he created in the past year. Nava has intensified the action underway in many of these compositions, experimenting with scale, repeating images, and animated abstract elements. Two-headed tigers, birds, sharks, and other creatures proliferate across these maximalist works, which will be exhibited alongside several subdued, minimal scenes he produced to balance the show. The artist situates several of his new figurations against dark skies replete with gold, glowing stars to evoke the magic of dreams, nightmares, and the unconscious mind.

A suite of elaborate new works on paper will complement the paintings on view in *After Hours*. Highlighting the relationship between Nava's drawing and painting practices, these works also shed light on his approach to sketching, an integral part of his work as an artist. In the pages of his notebooks, he works through ideas that come to life in his phantasmagoric paintings of real and imagined creatures. Exuding a sense of play, these small-scale drawings offer a more intimate, focused experience of the artist's madcap world.

After Hours coincides with *The Monster*, a group exhibition curated by Nava, which continues at Pace's Los Angeles gallery through March 22.

Robert Nava (b. 1985, East Chicago, Indiana) earned a BFA in Fine Art from Indiana University in 2008 as well as an MFA in Painting from Yale University in 2011. His practice centers on large-scale paintings and works on paper that portray whimsical creatures, rendered through gestural markings. Finding inspiration in the art of the distant past, from Medieval Christian imagery to Mayan and Sumerian art, as well as popular contemporary sources such as animation, Nava creates compositions that are carefully considered yet marked by a sense of naivete and spontaneity. His art has been exhibited in various solo exhibitions both domestically and abroad, including *Robert Nava*, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, Madrid (2024); *Robert Nava: Mirror Quest*, Hall Art Foundation, Germany (2023); *Robert Nava*, Fondazione Iris, Italy (2023); *Robert Nava: STAND*, The Watermill Center, New York (2022); *Bloodsport*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles (2022); *Robert Nava: Thunderbolt Disco*, Pace Gallery, London (2022); *Robert Nava*, Pace Palm Beach (2021); *Robert Nava: Angels*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York (2021); and *Robert Nava*, Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium (2020). Nava's work is held in public collections worldwide including the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Orange County Museum of Art, Santa Ana, California; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; and Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Florida; Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; and Perez Art Museum, Miami, Florida, among others.

Pace is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries, founded by Arne Glimcher in 1960. Holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko, Pace has a unique history that can be traced to its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery continues to nurture its longstanding relationships with its legacy artists and estates while also making an investment in the careers of contemporary artists, including Torkwase Dyson, Loie Hollowell, Robert Nava, Adam Pendleton, and Marina Perez Simão.

Under the current leadership of CEO Marc Glimcher and President Samanthe Rubell, Pace has established itself as a collaborative force in the art world, partnering with other galleries and nonprofit organizations around the world in recent years. The gallery advances its mission to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences and collectors around the world through a robust global program anchored by its exhibitions of both 20th century and contemporary art and scholarly projects from its imprint Pace Publishing, which produces books introducing new voices to the art historical canon. This artist-first ethos also extends to public installations, philanthropic events, performances, and other interdisciplinary programming presented by Pace.

Today, Pace has eight locations worldwide, including two galleries in New York—its eight-story headquarters at 540 West 25th Street and an adjacent 8,000-square-foot exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. The gallery's history in the New York art world dates to 1963, when it opened its first space in the city on East 57th Street. A champion of Light and Space artists, Pace has also been active in California for some 60 years, opening its West Coast flagship in Los Angeles in 2022. The gallery maintains European footholds in London and Geneva as well as Berlin, where it established an office in 2023. Pace was one of the first international galleries to have a major presence in Asia, where it has been active since 2008, the year it first opened in Beijing's vibrant 798 Art District. It now operates galleries in Hong Kong and Seoul and opened its first gallery in Japan in Tokyo's Azabudai Hills development in 2024.



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