

Ross + Kramer Gallery is pleased to present *How Can I Tell You?*, a solo exhibition featuring new works on linen and canvas by Nicasio Fernandez. *How Can I Tell You?* will be the painter's first exhibition with the gallery, and will be open to the public beginning August 14, 2020 in the gallery's Hamptons location at 66 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, New York. All are welcome to attend Friday's opening while committing to social distancing, and other CDC recommended practices such as wearing face coverings indoors.

In this time of uprooted "comfort", we are all confronted with unfamiliar situations while simultaneously questioning how to navigate through previously known territory. Within the body of work exhibited in *How Can I Tell You?*, Nicasio Fernandez presents visual representations for the emotional uncertainty that reigns in our current day to day. In this exhibition, Fernandez continues his career-long exploration of how the human figure can take form, whether that be through heads occupying the shapes of objects, artificially saturated skin tones, or overextended arms and appendages. "*How Can I Tell You?*" further focuses his pictorial vocabulary on the visual and emotional isolation of these figures in their captivating environments. Left to their own thoughts, the subjects exude concern in their anxious body gestures and facial expressions.

Inspiration for Fernandez's vivid oil paintings range from Flemish portraiture to the Chicago Imagists, and from Vincent van Gogh to the German Expressionists. Blending historical reference with a surreal capture of the everyday, the resulting works cultivate imagery that is relatable yet reliably foreign. This innate quality blends exceptionally well with the exhibition's overall theme of reflecting the nuances of our current times. The reflections continue in Fernandez's thoroughly considered color relationships, each painting glowing from the potency of contrasting warm and cool hues. These luminous collisions spark the viewer's attention, only to quickly shift to complimenting the emotional vibrancy of the expressiveness of his figures and the atmospheric spaces they exist in. The viewer's eye is kept in motion as one scans the work in pleasurable anticipation of discovering yet another detail Fernandez is sure to have considered.

Paintings featured in the exhibition include the vibrant *How's This Thing Work?*, where a daffodil yellow figure with a double barrel-nose struggles with an enlarged mirror-like saw and wonky plank of wood. The figure is understandably perplexed when faced with the inevitable loss of knowing what to do next. *How's This Thing Work?* also functions as an introduction to another of Fernandez' techniques, a process of selective thickness, where the painter builds up lush layers of paint and other materials to give the surface a tension break to the normal visual expectation of paint's texture on canvas or linen. These dense, built up areas give the element (in the case of *How's This Thing Work?*, the saw) a weight that propels the element past the plane of the rest of the scene, and brings it into a surreal second atmosphere that makes its significance heavier to the overall image's read.

Continuing the exploration of somber moments, is the dreamy *Got Me Star Gazin*, wherein a radiant green figure treads through a thick, hazy gas while being lit by an exaggerated starscape. Stuck in his tracks by nature's forces, the green figure encapsulates another major emotion felt by many during the global pandemic — when exhausted by confusion, we long for aspects of life we may not be experiencing while spending much of our time in isolation. Like the green humanoid, we seek out even the softest feelings of relief, like the warm glow of summer stars, or carefully laid paint.

**Nicasio Fernandez (b. 1993, Yonkers, NY) currently lives and works in Mahopac, NY. He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2015. He has held solo shows at Over The Influence (Los Angeles, CA); Harper's Books (New York, NY); and featured in group shows at Harper's Books (East Hampton, NY); Over The Influence (Hong Kong, SAR); Sunday Art Fair (London, UK); KIAF (Seoul, SK) 0-0 LA (Los Angeles, CA) among others.**