

GLADSTONE

Nicholas Bierk's Solo Exhibition with Gladstone Opens in Brussels

Presentation features 11 new paintings that extend Bierk's exploration of psychologically complex themes of death, time, and transformation

Gladstone presents *In the Absence of Paradise*, an exhibition of new oil paintings by Nicholas Bierk in Brussels. Recognized for his psychologically charged still lifes, landscapes, and portraits, Bierk's work collapses the distance between the extraordinary and the banal, revealing both transitory flashes of overlap between the past and the present, and the strange tension that undergirds all memory. Drawing from photography both formally and conceptually, these paintings touch upon themes that include intimacy, loss, trace, and the impossibility of permanence.

Rendered in a slightly larger scale than is typical of Bierk's past work, these paintings amplify the undercurrent of psychic ambivalence that is hallmark to his practice. Oscillating between scenes that reference nature and domesticity, the artist recurrently mediates on the distance between the interior and the exterior, how it's possible to evoke the familiar while simultaneously indicating the presence of something mysteriously alienated from ourselves.

Exhibition Details:

In the Absence of Paradise

September 4 – October 25, 2025

Opening Reception: September 4, 5–9pm

Rue du Grand Cerf 12

1000 Brussels, Belgium

About Nicholas Bierk

Nicholas Bierk (b. 1985, Peterborough, Ontario) lives and works in Victoria, British Columbia. Bierk's paintings bring viewers into psychologically charged encounters sourced from personal photographs, creating compositions of psychic ambivalence where the boundary between personal and communal memory blurs. Bierk's paintings explore death, grief, and transformation, but acknowledge that such things are always 'seen through a glass darkly.'

Bierk studied painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. Recent solo exhibitions include Gladstone Gallery, Brussels (2025); ADZ Gallery, Lisbon (2024); Overduin & Co., Los Angeles (2024); Painters Painting Paintings (2023); Pangée, Montreal (2022); Patel Brown Gallery, Toronto (2022); NO FOUNDATION, Toronto (2017); Project Gallery, Toronto (2016). Bierk has received grants from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation (2025) and was a finalist for the Kingston prize (2017, 2019). He has served as the Artist in Residence at PM/AM, London (2021), and at The Sussex Contemporary, Ottawa (2017).

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists

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and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

Press Contact

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