

Press Release

## Catherine Goodman. New Works

27 February – 5 May 2024

Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles  
South Gallery



**Los Angeles...**For her inaugural solo exhibition in Los Angeles, opening 27 February at Hauser & Wirth's Downtown Arts District location, London-based artist Catherine Goodman will present a new series of monumental abstract paintings, marking a significant progression in the artist's visual language. Goodman's characteristically animated surfaces and energetic brushstrokes have long been signatures of her expressionistic landscape paintings, portraits and sketches. Now, as she moves into abstraction, the distinctive vitality of her art takes on a new, immersive power. Saturated in color and monumental in scale, Goodman's newest paintings remain imbued with a longstanding connection to memory, place and the unconscious, that has shaped her art for many years.

Central to Goodman's artistic process is the act of drawing directly from life, a practice she has maintained every day for decades. This unwavering commitment to drawing underpins a deeply intuitive mode of artmaking that combines her outward physical observations with sensations pulled from her inner imagination and memories of specific places or experiences. Often working across multiple canvases at once, Goodman sees her painting practice as a means of inhabiting the moment. As such it holds a uniquely restorative potential where the imagination can process and renew itself. The substantial physical presence of her paintings, with their thick impasto, materialize the psychological depths and complexities encountered in the process of their making.

Goodman finds inspiration in the work of such 20th-century filmmakers as Tarkovsky, Bergman, Wenders and Erice, as well as Renaissance master painters like Titian and Veronese, often incorporating their creations as subjects in her observational drawings. For decades, Goodman has maintained a regular practice of drawing from films, pausing a film for six minutes and completing drawings using ink, pastels and watercolor. The resulting sketches inform the imagery and mark-making of her paintings, including her new abstract canvases on view in the exhibition at Hauser & Wirth. 'Night beekeeper II' (2023), takes its inspiration from the 1973 film 'The Spirit of the Beehive,' directed by Victor Erice. A recurring motif in Goodman's work, the beekeeper represents mutually

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nurturing relationships marked by attentiveness and care. 'Night Beekeeper II' is among the latest paintings produced on a dark ground, a technique only recently introduced into Goodman's work as a means to better explore the nocturnal realm. A maelstrom of vivid red, blue, orange and green, 'Night Beekeeper II' expresses and distills Goodman's observations while navigating nature on dark winter evenings, contemplating both the beauty of nature and the perils facing our ecosystem. Consistently translating such experiential insights, Goodman manifests in her paintings the delicate balance between outward expression and intense introspection.

### **Programming**

On the occasion of the exhibition, Catherine Goodman will lead a drawing workshop at Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles on Friday 23 February. Exploring film through drawing, Goodman will guide participants through a special drawing session featuring the film 'Paris, Texas' (1984) directed by Wim Wenders. Then, on Friday 1 March, Goodman will be in conversation with curator and writer Jenelle Porter. For more information, please see the event listings [here](#).

### **About the Artist**

Born in London in 1961, Catherine Goodman CBE lives and works in London. Goodman studied at Camberwell School of Arts & Crafts, London, and the Royal Academy Schools, London, where she won the Royal Academy Gold Medal in 1987. Goodman's lifelong commitment to social justice through education forms a critical aspect of her artistic identity and approach to making. In 2000, Goodman established The Royal Drawing School with HM King Charles III to deliver subsidized and free education to thousands of young and disadvantaged people in the UK. Today, she continues in her role as Founding Artistic Director and Academic Board Member. For many years, Goodman organized drawing classes for individuals dealing with homelessness and disabilities, and she continues to offer refuge classes to young people with mental health issues on a weekly basis. She is also the primary caregiver of her sister, Sophie, who was born with multiple health conditions and has always been a subject of Goodman's practice. In 2014, Goodman was awarded Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) for services to The Royal Drawing School, and Commander of the Order of British Empire (CBE) in 2024 for her services to art in the UK. Goodman has served as the Artist Trustee at The National Gallery, London since 2019. Her paintings are held in significant private and public collections including the National Portrait Gallery, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, The Rothschild Foundation, and the Royal Collection Trust.

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Gallery hours:  
Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm

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**Caption and courtesy information:**

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Girls  
2023  
Oil on linen  
180 x 235 cm / 71 7/8 x 92 1/2 in

Scarlet Shig  
2023  
Oil on linen  
204 x 187.5 cm / 80 3/8 x 73 7/8 in

Night Beekeeper II  
2023  
Oil on linen  
174 x 212 cm / 68 1/2 x 83 1/2 in