‘Freakier Friday’

Marika Thunder

Curated by Shan Huq

21.10-15.11.2026

Profil Gallery is pleased to present Freakier Friday, an exhibition of five paintings by Marika Thunder that continues a body of work first shown in *Dress Up My Lindsay* at Public Access Gallery, New York, in 2021.

The series originated in a scrapbook Thunder made when she was seven or eight years old. It was filled with images of Lindsay Lohan cut from tabloid magazines and altered with handwritten commentary and improvised decoration. At the time, Lohan was one of the defining figures of adolescent popular culture, following her appearances in *Freaky Friday* (2003) and *Mean Girls* (2004).

Thunder first returned to the scrapbook in 2021, when she was twenty-one and at the beginning of her career. She translated its private collages into ten oil paintings that became her first solo exhibition the following year. By then, Lohan was no longer a reigning Hollywood star but a largely absent figure whose public unraveling had come to overshadow her work. Thunder was not painting a contemporary idol. She was examining the distance between the celebrity she had worshipped as a child and the damaged cultural figure Lohan had subsequently become.

The paintings preserve the collisions and abrupt transitions of collage. Cropped bodies, dislocated faces, changes in scale, handwritten words, and decorative marks coexist within a single image. The speed of the tabloid photograph is slowed down through paint, while material that was once disposable acquires an unexpected gravity. In contrast to the densely layered compositions of 2021, the new paintings are sparser and more materially self-conscious, combining oil with acrylic, wax, and printed matter. In *Looking Good* (2026), a small image of

Lohan is held within translucent painted bands against a pale field, accompanied by a check mark, a number, and the approving phrase of the title. The celebrity image has become something between a cherished keepsake and a specimen under examination.

Six years is a relatively short period in a life, but it encompasses an enormous transformation during one’s twenties. In 2020, Thunder was an emerging artist looking back at the images that had shaped her childhood. By 2026, she has developed an established practice through continuous exhibitions in the United States and Europe. Her return to this early material is also a confrontation with her own beginnings. The new paintings are made by an artist looking not only at her childhood self, but also at the younger artist who first decided to turn that private archive into art.

Lohan’s position has changed as well. Since the first exhibition, she has returned to acting and public life, while the culture has begun to reconsider the cruelty with which young female celebrities were consumed, sexualized, and discarded during the early 2000s. An image that first represented aspiration, and later collapse, now carries the possibility of survival and rehabilitation.

There is irony and humor, but it is not merely a joke. Across the series, Lohan appears successively as childhood idol, tabloid casualty, and recovered cultural memory. At the same time, the paintings register Thunder's own passage from childhood fascination to artistic self-awareness, and from a first exhibition to a sustained international practice.

Marika Thunder (b. 1998, New York) has had solo presentations at M. LeBlanc, Chicago (2026), Hoffmann Maler Wallenberg, New York (2026), Caprii Room, Düsseldorf (2025), the National Arts Club, New York (2024), Hoffmann Maler Wallenberg and Micki Meng, New York (2024), Nina Johnson, Miami (2023), and Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles (2022). She lives and works in New York.

Profil

1. Marika Thunder
   “Nice!”
   76cm x 101cm
   Oil, and acrylic, and wax on panel
   2026

2. Marika Thunder
   “Crazy bill!”
   41cm x 51cm
   Oil on canvas
   2024

3. Marika Thunder
   “Looking good”
   76cm x 101cm
   Oil, acrylic, and wax on panel
   2026

4. Marika Thunder
   Lindsay #2 “Away”
   76cm x 101cm
   Oil on canvas
   2021

5. Marika Thunder
   “Lindsay and her car”
   76cm x 101cm
   Oil and inkjet print on canvas
   2026

