

# NICELLE BEAUCHENE GALLERY

## **Panayiotis Loukas**

*Blinded by choices*

June 10 – July 9, 2021

Nicelle Beauchene Gallery is pleased to present *Blinded by choices*, an exhibition of new paintings by Athens-based artist Panayiotis Loukas. This will be Loukas' first solo exhibition in North America.

Panayiotis Loukas' oil on canvas paintings tread in dream-like realms that muddle our understanding of the strange and the familiar. Myriad narratives melt together in large-scale, highly detailed tableau; like an exuberant novelist, Loukas fashions scenes that, while seemingly ridiculous, reveal their meaning over time with a considered dose of imagination.

Loukas employs technical observation to concoct compositions that blend elements of psychedelia, folklore, horror, and popular culture. Many of the paintings on view in *Blinded by choices* hover in and around the domestic: a marble bathroom and a dish-cluttered kitchen sink become stages upon which troupes of peculiar objects cavort. Humans are scarce in this house taken over, though a lone figure appears in several paintings: shrouded and hiding, groggily coping with the surrounding activity.

Specific motifs recur throughout Loukas' scenes: anthropomorphic fruit, flowers, and glass bottles find themselves among dancing animals, shoes, and dripping, smoking candles. Four small paintings in the exhibition feature close-crops of these bottles and candles, their undulating surfaces glinting with animacy and action. Together, all of these symbols give each painting the air of a cabinet of curiosity—collections of boundless association, lore, and meaning. As critic Chris Wiley observed in a 2019 review of the exhibition *The Same River Twice*, Loukas' "harlequin-coloured scenes of priapic hex victims, oracular cats and a Croc-loving bathing Pan look like they should be airbrushed onto a T-shirt covered in lightning bolts." It is in this sense that Loukas magics a paradoxical profusion of the high and low, history and allegory, reality and fantasy.

**Panayiotis Loukas** (b. 1975, Athens, GR) lives and works in Athens, Greece. His work was recently included in the exhibition *The Same River Twice* curated by Margot Norton and Natalie Bell, organized by DESTE Foundation and New Museum for the Benaki Museum, Athens (2019). Loukas has also exhibited at State of Concept, Athens (2019); Dio Horia, Mykonos (2015, 2017); Onassis Cultural Center, Athens (2016); Chalet Society, Paris (2015); Kunstraum Innsbruck, Austria (2015); Family Business, New York (2013); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012, 2013); and The Breeder, Athens (2007, 2008), among others.