

# NIGHT GALLERY

2276 E. 16th Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

[nightgallery.ca](http://nightgallery.ca)

## MIRA DANCY

Madonna Undone

September 24 – November 5, 2022

Night Gallery is proud to announce *Madonna Undone*, an exhibition of new work by the Los Angeles-based artist Mira Dancy. This is the artist's fourth solo show with the gallery.

In *Madonna Undone*, Mira Dancy brings her signature take on chromatic figuration into expanded compositional fields, her subjects exuding strength within vivid naturalistic scenes. Dancy moved from New York City to Los Angeles in 2020, and evidence of this shift in environment is alluded to throughout the exhibition: wide skies, the craggy forms of mountains, and the more impressionistic features of the landscape, such as the sun's intensity and the heat of the air.

For many, the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* was a waking nightmare that laid bare our proximity to the full restoration of patriarchy. The profound impact the decision has had on Dancy ripples through her newest body of work. While her figures often arise from amalgams of many kinds of mothers—mythological, cosmological, and relational—these works directly channel the emotions linked to a loss of bodily autonomy and the notion of conscripted motherhood.

Encompassing paintings, plexiglass elements, and ephemeral sand gestures, *Madonna Undone* underscores self-determination in both the physical and spiritual realms. Dancy considers several of her new works “inversions” of annunciation paintings, or musings on a Madonna “Without Child.” The iconic Madonna is reconceptualized from a human vessel to an emblem of individual agency and the sacred nature of choice. Sweeping linework and intricate structures of color and shape echo the complex interiority of this figure. In *Per the Pendulum*, viewers encounter the continual mirroring of a single self, giving the canvas an expansive quality brimming with embodied power.

Elsewhere, *Immaculate Reversal* seeks to unravel the subjugation of the traditional annunciation painting. At the work's center is a vibrant, jagged form resembling a chrysalis or womb, seemingly on the edge of transformation. Dancy endeavors here to override the sexist underpinnings of the “immaculate conception” by suggesting, instead, a divine abortion. From Dancy's striking geometries emerge declarations of autonomy, refracting the darkness of our shared reality into the possibility of finding new light in new images.

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**Mira Dancy** (b. 1979) has had solo exhibitions at Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Yuz Museum, Shanghai; Chapter NY, New York; Galería Agustina Ferreyra, Mexico City; Galerie Hussenot, Paris; Lumber Room, Portland; and JOAN, Los Angeles. Her work is included in the permanent collections of LACMA, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Columbus Museum of Art, OH; and Yuz Foundation, Shanghai. In 2015, Dancy was included in *Greater New York* at MoMA PS1. She has been covered in the *New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Vogue*, *Kaleidoscope*, and *ArtNews*, among other publications. Dancy lives and works in Los Angeles.