

# Francis Irv

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Nine Oils*

January 21 - March 9, 2024

Anna-Sophie Berger, Sanya Kantarovsky, Oliver Osborne, Minh-Lan Tran, Banks Violette

Francis Irv is pleased to announce *Nine Oils*, a group exhibition opening January 21st from 6-8 PM.

### *Spirit of Vitriol*

The relic has been preserved in the basilica for hundreds of years. Matte as a wax figurine, dried up teeth, a shaved skull nose. Stripes of dust sleep under shade of a milk blue habit.

*Numerous official and historical documents have established its veracity. The relic is the real head of the saint.*

There are three people in the basilica: the boy, the man who stares ahead in silence, the saint.

Outside, the burn victim on the step sits with his cardboard sign. He has a cup for coins and a cup of pallid coffee, now cool, too much cream. Two solutions.

The burn victim has made himself the instrument of chance. Marred, miraculous, he hovers a palm above his paper chalices, one and then the other.

Unwittingly, the boy drops a coin in the wrong cup.

The saint, like the burn victim, was unsightly. Like the burn victim, he nonetheless occupies every corner. There is a statue at the end of this street, and the next, and the next. There is a plaque with important dates embossed.

Passersby plead before his face.

As the light wanes the boy returns to his designated quarters, an introverted room of cold linoleum and walls blotted with inscrutable stains. The lacquer, applied too often and to no avail, flakes; dead skin over a bruise.

A window overlooking cobblestone slopes toward the square. At this hour the glare of low sun obscures all view of the basilica's façade, hangs ripe at the navel of the sky, rubicund and wounding its monochrome sheath. The boy's features ripple in the glass and the night, incipient, retains residual weight like dregs of a stale pond after record heat.

It should be understood by now that Providence favors practitioners of blind faith: the man of scruples is spited. Still visitors forgo the cardboard sign with pocketed fists, to be borne clammy and erroneous beneath a bronze idol. They strain upwards in vain, searching his impassable eyes for a diluted power.

There is sense and then there is attachment to the sense.

Below the line of sight, the children go unnoticed. Forgotten models, they touch the statue's feet and meet the rheum of the burn victim at once, anointing both with an immortal balm.

The burn victim has already outlived his form.

When he dies it will be choking on a coin for which he spent his days waiting.

The man who stares in the basilica, without official and historical documents, establishes the relic's veracity by his silence alone.

- Paris J. B. Reid

Francis Irv would like to thank the following galleries for their collaboration: Gió Marconi, Milan; Gladstone Gallery, New York; Jan Kaps, Cologne; Layr, Vienna; and Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles.

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**Anna-Sophie Berger** (b. 1989, Vienna) lives and works between Vienna and New York. Selected solo exhibitions include *Mode und Tod*, Layr, Vienna (2023); *The Years*, MAK Geymüllerschloss, Vienna (2023); *Wealth and Propriety*, Lodos, Mexico City (2022); *Sin*, JTT, New York (2022); *Duel*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2020); *A Failed Play*, Cell Project Space, London (2019); *New York*, Studio for Propositional Cinema, Düsseldorf (2017); *Places to fight and make up*, MUMOK, Vienna (2016); *Billboards*, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz (2016).

**Sanya Kantarovsky** (b. 1982, Moscow) lives and works in New York. Selected solo exhibitions include *To Prison*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles (2023); *After birth*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Kyoto (2023); *A Solid House*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2022); *Center*, Capitain Petzel, Berlin (2022); *The House of the Spider*, Modern Art, London (2021); *Disease of the Eyes*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2018); *Letdown*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2017).

**Oliver Osborne** (b. 1985, Edinburgh) lives and works in Berlin. Selected solo exhibitions include *Manganese Blue*, Galeria Pelaires, Palma de Mallorca (2023); *Recent Painting*, Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles (2023); *Mantegna's Dead Christ*, Union Pacific, London (2022); *Portrait of a Fat Man for Düsseldorf*, JVDW, Düsseldorf (2022); *Der Kleine Angsthase*, Braunsfelder, Cologne (2020); *Birth, Education, Leisure, Death*, Giò Marconi, Milan (2019); *Bonnie*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2018).

**Minh-Lan Tran** (b. 1997, Hong Kong) lives and works in Paris. Selected solo exhibitions include *Space of Resistance*, Jan Kaps, Cologne (2023); *Heat Generation*, Harlesden High Street, London (2023); *Somewhere I have never travelled, gladly beyond* (two-person show with Evelina Haggünd), Nicoletti Contemporary, London (2022).

**Banks Violette** (b. 1973, Ithaca) lives and works in Ithaca. Selected solo exhibitions include Gladstone 64, New York (2018); Blum & Poe, Los Angeles (2012); Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris (2011); Gladstone Gallery, New York (2010); Museum Dhont-Dhaenens, Deurle (2010); Espacio Arte Contemporáneo La Conservera, Ceutí, Spain (2009); Team Gallery, New York (2009); Maureen Paley, London (2008); Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels (2008); *Focus: Banks Violette*, Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth (2008); Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen (2007); The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2005); *Arroyo Grande, 7.22.95*, Team Gallery, New York (2002).

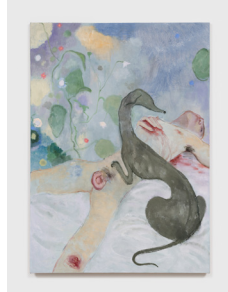
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## CHECKLIST

### *Nine Oils*

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Sanya Kantarovsky  
*Simultaneity*  
2024  
Oil on linen  
55 x 39½ in.  
139.7 x 100.33 cm



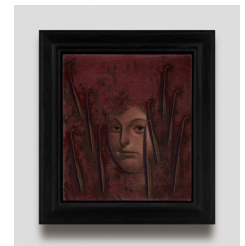
Minh-Lan Tran  
*Iconophobia*  
2024  
Tempera, charcoal, and  
oil on linen  
59 x 78¾ x 1 in.  
150 x 200 x 3 cm



Banks Violette  
*untitled (two horses/inverted)*  
2023  
Graphite on paper  
22 x 30 in.  
55.88 x 76.2 cm  
25 x 32½ in. (framed)  
63.50 x 82.55 cm (framed)



Oliver Osborne  
*Recent Painting (9 Leaves)*  
2022  
Oil on linen in artist's frame  
15 x 13 in.  
40.2 x 35.2 cm  
21 x 19 x 2½ in. (framed)  
53.2 x 48.2 x 6.5 cm (framed)



Anna-Sophie Berger  
*Cloak*  
2021  
Polyester velvet, tripod and  
variable hardware  
86 x 59 x 59 in.  
220 x 150 x 150 cm



Oliver Osborne  
*Recent Painting (17 Leaves)*  
2023  
Oil on linen in artist's frame  
17 3/4 x 15 3/4 x 1 1/8 in.  
45 x 40 x 3 cm  
22 x 20 x 2 in. (framed)  
58 x 53 x 6 cm (framed)



Photo: Jeffrey Sturges