

NICOLAS SHAKE MOTION PICTURES

Presented By:
Galerie Timonier & Dylan Brant Fine Art

Nicolas Shake
MOTION PICTURES
February 17th - March 16th 2024

"The first good look I had at customized cars was at an event called a "Teen Fair," held in Burbank, a suburb of Los Angeles beyond Hollywood. This was a wild place to be taking a look at art objects—eventually, I should say, you have to reach the conclusion that these customized cars are art objects, at least if you use the standards applied in a civilized society." - Tom Wolfe, *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby*, Esquire Magazine, Nov. 1963

Galerie Timonier and Dylan Brant Fine Art are pleased to present MOTION PICTURES, Nicolas Shake's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles in over a decade:

LUCKY / GOOD / GUNK / PRONTO / PARTS / BINGO / CASH / TEST / FLOWERS / SMOG are a few of the words Nicolas Shake references in his paintings. They usually find their origin on the roadside signage bestrewn through much of Los Angeles and California at large. In an act of collection or, at the very least, in a struggle against dispersion, Shake has been documenting these for over twenty years.

Over time, their use and reuse develops into a kind of pictorial vernacular where words become codes which then become images in the fullest sense, the signifier becomes the signified. Shake always uses the same composition for any given word, one directly appropriated from the state's signage. These typographical considerations prime over the words themselves, guiding or shaping our understanding of them, quickening our access and relationship to their historical, professional, or cultural implication but also confronting us with their increasing obsolescence. Their fall from grace, *bygone-ness* and the visual debris which makes up much of the current urban landscape is endemic to a city continuously on the brink of revolution, on the verge of change be it cultural, socio-political, or environmental.

Bearing this state of flux in mind, the exhibition borrows its title from Charlie Chaplin's characterization of California's "three horsemen of the Apocalypse; oil, motion pictures, and aeronautics," responsible for the destruction of its "unkissed oranges and lemon groves," presumably a kind of shorthand to denote something much larger. Shake's use of language exists at this intersection; it occupies the liminal space between the West as both a mythologized and allegorical construct. Much of the intent animating his practice contends with the concurrent upholding and demystification of California's soft power which persuades by means of appeal and attraction:

race cars circling in Sonoma,
a lottery ticket, stomped outside a liquor store,
Stan Getz's tenor saxophone programmatically imitating the feeling of driving around Los Angeles at dusk,
pink donut boxes piled above a glass case full of sugar powdered, chocolate glazed, color sprinkled O's, bartender
Ruben Rueda throwing Steven McQueen out of Musso & Frank's,
prop stores for movies selling panoramic backdrops in an age of green screen,
Neon, Neon, Neon, Nude, Nude, Nude,
Eucalyptus trees burning wildly in the valley.

Nicolas Shake (b. 1981, Northridge, CA) lives and works between Los Angeles and Pearblossom, CA. He received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2008, and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2011. Shake was an artist-in-residence at the Chinati Foundation in 2019. Recent group exhibitions include: *Asymmetrical Orbits*, University of La Verne Harris Gallery, La Verne, CA; *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, Galeria Mascota, Mexico City; *I'll Be Your Mirror*, Brant-Timonier, Palm Beach, FL. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Various Working Methods*, Galerie Timonier and Dylan Brant Fine Art, NYC, NY and California Son, Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.



Nicolas Shake
GOOD LUCK(Y) Black Cat
dye and cotton thread on canvas, weathered and laundered 70
x 62 x 2 in. | 177.8 x 157.48 x 5.08 cm. | 2024



Nicolas Shake
ADULT (Hollywood Sign)
dye and cotton thread on canvas, weathered and laundered
48 x 72 x 2 in. | 121.9 x 182.9 x 5.1 x 5.1 cm. | 2023



Nicolas Shake
LUCKY

dye on canvas, weathered and laundered
96 x 84 x 2 in. | 243.84 x 213.36 x 5.1 cm. | 2024



Nicolas Shake
Fire

dye and cotton thread on canvas, weathered and laundered
60 x 80 x 1 1/2 in. | 152.4 x 203.2 x 3.8 cm. | 2023



Nicolas Shake
Self PARTS ONLY
dye and cotton thread on canvas, weathered and laundered
84 x 72 x 2 in. | 213.4 x 182.9 x 5.1 cm. | 2023