

# **in vain: *vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas***

## **George Stoll**

June 8 - July 26, 2025

George Stoll's new body of work takes form in the mode of *vanitas*-sixteen pictures of death and desire sifted through the artist's sympathetic fracture. Meticulously rendered in silk organza, we peer through the surface of corporality to glimpse at the little shadows our souls cast, or perhaps the grin of a ghost. The almost identical Bier-like frames with fan-shaped apertures gingerly ground the diaphane like a spirit lingering between life and death.

Taken from the book of Ecclesiastes, the exhibition's title suggests a rebuke of a meaningless (in Old Testament terms - Godless) life. Stoll in turn interpolates this judgement into a contemporary collective pathos. Images of gold coins, golf courses, fleshy steaks, looted antiquities, crowns, jewels, etc. provide a droll index of what we lust after in this life. In the afterlife (if there is one), will there be art? Here it seems as though art is the afterlife, the pre-existence and the now, a singularity from which we spring.

### **Checklist:**

1. 1-16 *Untitled* (from the series *in vain: vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas*), 2025  
Silk organza and silk thread in artist's frame  
21 x 29 x 3 inches

