

## High Life - Robert Lakomczyk at Zyrland Zoiropa

November 20th - December 13th

Robert Lakomczyk presents five new acrylic paintings that examine the strange afterlives of stolen jewels. Working from compromised digital files sourced from official archives, the artist reimagines these missing objects as luminous remnants - symbols whose power persists long after their disappearance. Drawing on psychoanalytic and material culture theory, the exhibition investigates how jewels have historically operated as tools of elevation, protection, and social hierarchy: objects that dazzle so intensely that their wearers seem to vanish beneath their shine.

Rendered through dry, layered acrylics and blurred second-hand projections, the paintings carry a deliberate paleness, a haze that mirrors the degraded images from which they originate. This distance evokes both nostalgia and loss: the sense that something once vibrant has been hollowed out by time, reproduction, and digital mediation. The works reflect on the colonial histories embedded in gemstones, the fetishisation of luxury objects, and the contemporary drive toward optimisation that strips ornament and detail from everyday life.

In High Life, painting becomes an act of retrieval. Through slow, repetitive mark-making, the artist reclaims the excess, ambiguity, and presence of objects that exist only as traces in an archive - inviting viewers to consider how what is lost continues to shape us, and how images of desire persist even in their absence.