Damien Hirst
Forgiving and Forgetting
January 20–April 16, 2022
541 West 24th Street, New York
Gagosian to Present *Forgiving and Forgetting*

**Damien Hirst**’s First Solo Exhibition in New York Since 2018

Featuring Works That Have Never Before Been Shown in the United States

January 20–April 16, 2022 (Original closing date: February 26, 2022)

Gagosian is pleased to present *Forgiving and Forgetting*, an exhibition of sculptures and new paintings by Damien Hirst that have never before been shown in the United States. The presentation also marks the artist’s first exhibition in New York since the 2018 solo show *Colour Space Paintings*.

*Forgiving and Forgetting* includes works from Hirst’s *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*, a project that presents sculptural relics from a fictional shipwreck off the coast of East Africa, playing fast and loose with linear time, cultural origin, and perceptions of relative status and value. Foregrounding these sculptures against an intricately woven tale of seafaring exploits, marine excavation, and laborious research, Hirst aims to invoke feelings of wonder at their meticulous physical and conceptual fabrication.
The series debuted in 2017 with a suite of *Treasures*—ranging from pastiches of ancient and classical busts, masks, and statues to representations of iconic Disney cartoon characters—rendered in an extraordinary array of materials, many encrusted with colorful blooms of skillfully painted barnacles, as if salvaged from the ocean floor. *Forgiving and Forgetting* marks an ambitious phase in Hirst’s body of work; the sculptures are carved out of pink Portuguese marble and white Carrara marble, immortalizing each figure in one of the most storied materials in Western art history.

From the playful wave of a coral-laden Minnie Mouse to the intricately encrusted visage of a jauntily posed Goofy, each subject in its monochrome marble assumes the same gravitas, sparking unexpected interactions between ancient materials and modern forms. As in much of the artist’s practice, Hirst’s Treasures exemplify the idea of mythmaking that lies at the core of culture, both high and low.

*Forgiving and Forgetting* will also reveal works from Hirst’s latest series, the *Reverence Paintings*. Originally seeking to reimagine the vibrant *Cherry Blossoms* in allover white, the artist began to overlay shifting dabs of color and flecks of gold leaf across the otherwise monochrome canvases, allowing them to take on a vivid and shimmering dynamism. Covered with bright impasto dots that add both perspectival grounding and visual haze to each composition, the *Reverence Paintings* underscore Hirst’s acute sense of color, expanding upon the expressionistic and pointillist impulses that have inspired his recent bodies of work.
#DamienHirst
Instagram: @DamienHirst
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About Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst was born in in Bristol, England, and lives and works in London, Devon, and Gloucestershire, England. Collections include the Museo d’ Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy; Museum Brandhorst, Munich; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid; Tate, London; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Art Institute of Chicago; The Broad, Los Angeles; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; and 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan.

Exhibitions include Cornucopia, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (2010); Tate Modern, London (2012); Relics, Qatar Museums Authority, Al Riwaq (2013); Signification (Hope, Immortality and Death in Paris, Now and Then), Deyrolle, Paris (2014); Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2015); The Last Supper, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2016); Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana, Venice (2017); Damien Hirst at Houghton Hall: Colour Space Paintings and Outdoor Sculptures, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, England (2019); Mental Escapology, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2021); Cherry Blossoms, Fondation Cartier, Paris (2021); and Archaeology Now, Galleria Borghese, Rome (2021). Hirst received the Turner Prize in 1995.
About Gagosian

Established by Larry Gagosian in Los Angeles in 1980, Gagosian is a global gallery specializing in modern and contemporary art that employs more than three hundred people at nineteen exhibition spaces across the United States, Europe, and Asia. In addition to its galleries, Gagosian is at the forefront of the digital marketplace with innovative online viewing rooms, timed to coincide with major art fairs, that include highly desirable works by today’s leading artists, transparent pricing, historical scholarship, and insightful market analysis.


From its inception, Gagosian has prepared and presented unparalleled museum-quality exhibitions of works by historical artists such as Arakawa, Diane Arbus, Richard Artschwager, Francis Bacon, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning, Walter De Maria, Lucio Fontana, Helen Frankenthaler, Alberto Giacometti, Howard Hodgkin, Roy Lichtenstein, Man Ray, Piero Manzoni, Agnes Martin, Claude Monet, Henry Moore, Jackson Pollock, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, Tom Wesselmann, and Zao Wou-Ki, among others. The gallery’s groundbreaking Picasso exhibitions, curated by scholar John Richardson in New York and London, were attended by hundreds of thousands of visitors. In 2019, Larry Gagosian curated an exhibition featuring Picasso masterpieces as a tribute to Richardson following his death.

Since 1985, when Gagosian became the first gallery to establish a publishing house that produces a vast range of catalogues raisonnés, monographs, artist’s books, scholarly exhibition catalogues, and limited editions, the gallery has published nearly six hundred titles, rivaling the output of traditional arts trade publishers. The print and online editions of the Gagosian Quarterly provide unique access to artists in their studios and homes through insightful interviews and profiles of and by leading art world professionals. The Gagosian Shop in New York curates
a coveted selection of rare books, art editions, unique collaborations, posters, jewelry, apparel, and Leica cameras.

Gagosian has long developed cultural programming and events with artists, including performances, exhibition tours, public talks, film screenings, and studio visits. The gallery has long been committed to working with and advising artists on all aspects of their legacy planning. In 2018 the gallery launched its Building a Legacy program, bringing together artists and their studio staff with experts in the field of artists’ estates, nonprofit foundations, and legacy stewardship through a series of symposia.

With exhibition spaces designed by world-renowned architects such as Caruso St John, Richard Gluckman, Richard Meier, Jean Nouvel, Selldorf Architects, and wHY Architecture, Gagosian is able to show a wide range of compelling projects—including work as varied as Jenny Saville’s painterly depictions of the human form, Richard Serra’s iconic monumental sculptures and drawings, and a re-creation of Roy Lichtenstein’s site-specific and temporary wall painting *Greene Street Mural*.

*Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10–5:30*
*Appointments encouraged*
*Please visit gagosian.com for further details*
Damien Hirst, Goofy, 2017 (detail)
Press Images

Download Images
https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/arX5yvKZMb

Bronze
35 3/4 × 28 × 24 inches
(90.9 × 71.1 × 61 cm)
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Photo: Christoph Gerigk
Courtesy Gagosian

Damien Hirst, *Goofy*, 2016
Pink marble
47 1/4 × 23 5/8 × 17 3/4 inches
(120 × 60 × 45 cm)
Edition of 3 + 2 AP
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Photo: Lucio Ghiardi/Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd
Courtesy Gagosian

Damien Hirst, *Minnie*, 2020
Pink marble
39 5/8 × 22 7/8 × 22 7/8 inches
(100.5 × 58 × 58 cm)
Edition of 3 + 2 AP
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Damien Hirst, *Prayer*, 2020
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
108 × 72 inches
(274.3 × 182.9 cm)
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Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd
Courtesy Gagosian

Damien Hirst, *Altar*, 2020
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
108 × 72 inches
(274.3 × 182.9 cm)
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Damien Hirst, *Light*, 2020
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
108 × 72 inches
(274.3 × 182.9 cm)
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Installation view, Damien Hirst: Forgiving and Forgetting, Gagosian, 541 West 24th Street, New York, 2022
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Photo: Rob McKeever
Courtesy Gagosian

Damien Hirst, *Lord*, 2020
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
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