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Gagosian to Exhibit New Fin Sculptures by Alex Israel in London in *Upside Down*



Details of Alex Israel's *Crush* and *Good Day Sunshine* (both 2026) © Alex Israel. Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd

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LONDON, June 11, 2026—Gagosian is pleased to announce *Upside Down*, an exhibition of new fin sculptures by Alex Israel at the Davies Street gallery in London, opening June 12.

The four sculptures on view, enlarged versions of those found on surfboards, allude to both Southern California surf culture and postwar Los Angeles art history. Carved from Plexiglas and rendered in varying degrees of reflectivity and transparency, the works' sleek production and emphasis on physical and perceptual experience invite dialogue with the region's Finish Fetish and Light and Space movements of the 1960s. The sculptures' pop-inflected colors evoke the commercial aesthetics employed by surf brands to convey the freedom and optimism long associated with Southern California's coastal lifestyle. Each work is titled after a beloved pop song, adding to its aura of collective longing and nostalgia.

The new fins, related to those first exhibited at Gagosian Rome in 2023, are here inverted and suspended from the gallery ceiling. This unexpected positioning recalls surfers performing a “turtle roll,” going “over the falls” (being caught on the lip of a wave before plunging upside down), or simply the orientation of the fins beneath the water as board riders paddle out. The installation also lends the gallery, with its street-facing windows, a fish tank-like appearance, positioning viewers at an “underwater” vantage.

Israel’s inspiration for using the fin as an artistic motif may be traced back to his feature-length teen surf film *SPF-18* (2017). Since then, it has appeared on his Louis Vuitton Artycapucines handbag design (2019), in his official logo for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and on the temples of the sunglasses he produced in collaboration with Oliver Peoples to support victims of the Los Angeles wildfires (2025). In April, Israel also designed the fin-shaped statuette presented to recipients of the inaugural California Arts Council Awards in Sacramento.

An essay on the exhibition by Susan Casey—author of *The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean* (2011)—will appear online in *Gagosian Quarterly*.

For biographical information and exhibition history, [please visit gagosian.com](http://www.gagosian.com).

#AlexIsrael

ALEX ISRAEL

Upside Down

Opening reception: Friday, June 12, 6–8pm

June 12–September 5, 2026

17–19 Davies Street, London

Press

Gagosian

press@gagosian.com

Toby Kidd

tkidd@gagosian.com

+44 20 7495 1500

Laura Callendar

lcallendar@gagosian.com

+44 7393 464636

Bolton & Quinn

Daisy Taylor

daisy@boltonquinn.com

+44 20 7221 5000