



## EXHIBITIONS

# Sayre Gomez "Déjà Vu" at Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles

[Share](#)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Ghebaly Gallery is proud to announce *Déjà Vu*, the gallery's second solo exhibition with the Los Angeles-based artist Sayre Gomez. The show is accompanied by an exhibition publication with an essay by writer and curator Olivian Cha.

Across several new bodies of work, Gomez masterfully deploys trompe l'oeil painting techniques in a loose exploration of contemporary American subjectivity. The exhibition opens with a six second video loop from the 1941 Disney film *Dumbo*. An enraged captive gorilla shakes the bars of its cage and finds in shock that the bars of its prison are loose. Rather than freeing itself, it restores its cage in order to carry on its angry protest. The short looping video sets a tone of eternal return, prefacing several repetitions and recurrences throughout the exhibition.

Fences, closed doorways, and windows reappear across the show, indicating confinement and foreclosed opportunity. In a set of three paintings, a chain link fence comes into sharp pictorial focus, each backdrop falling into a distant blur. Unnervingly, an identical strand of ivy grows on each fence. The ivy, signifying the



faded vinyl layer depicting a tropical landscape blocks a view inside. In the other, scraps of paper cover the doorway from within, the last action of a quickly shuttered business. The storefront, an emblem of American opportunity, comes to stand as a painted closure, sealed before it was ever open.

The exhibition proceeds in a spiral, moving from exterior views to interior spaces, represented in a series of trompe l'oeil wood panel paintings. Simulating the surfaces of varnished wood panels marred by stickers in various stages of removal, Gomez creates psychologically charged works that comment on consciousness and identity formation. Assemblages of cultural attitudes, gender performances, class markers, and aesthetic statements, the works use stickers as avatars of identity. Individually insignificant, the stickers are substances that bind irreversibly with a surface and offer a collective, emergent view of the self.

## MILANO ART BULLETIN

Fb: milanoartbulletin

This consideration of interiority is punctuated by an untitled painting, a confrontational, photorealistic portrait of a futuristic fighter pilot. The source image for this work was created by a fantasy illustration artist and posted to a military enthusiast website. By painting this computer generated soldier, Gomez offers it as another kind of sticker or ornament. The work reflects on the cooptation of a collective imagination, one in which power, violence, and domination are championed and perversely aestheticized.

at Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles

until 18 November 2017

### Related Articles

#### EXHIBITIONS

Benni Bosetto "Il Portico" at ALMANAC INN, Turin  
([Read more](#))

#### EXHIBITIONS

Jordan Casteel "Within Reach" at the New Museum, New York  
([Read more](#))



## EXHIBITIONS

Ella Kruglyanskaya "This is a Robbery" at Thomas Dane Gallery, Lond...  
(Read more)



## EXHIBITIONS

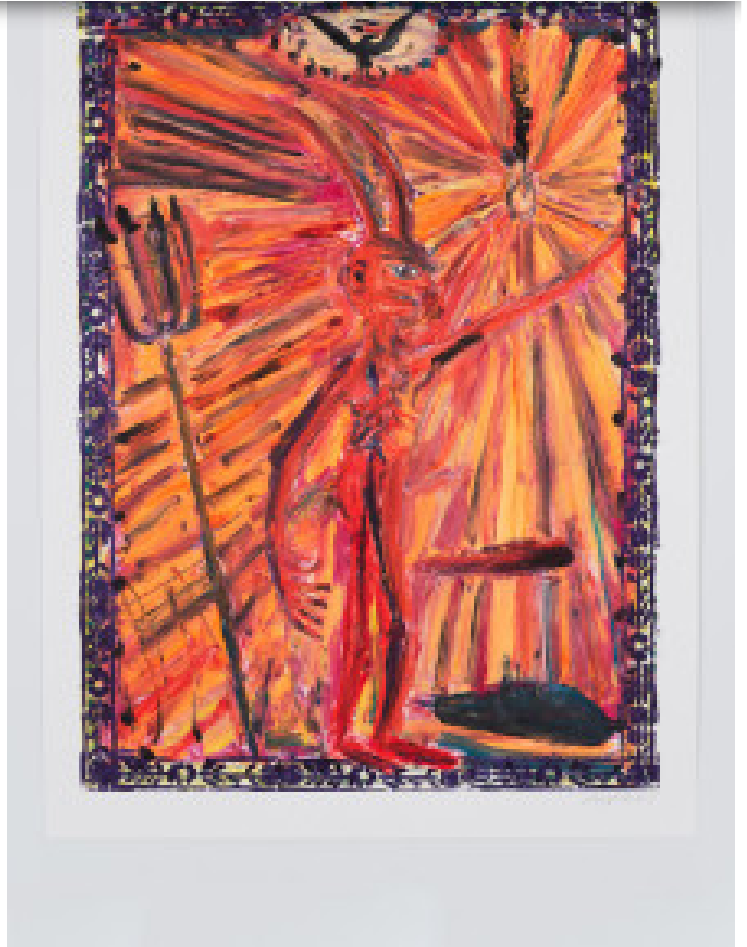
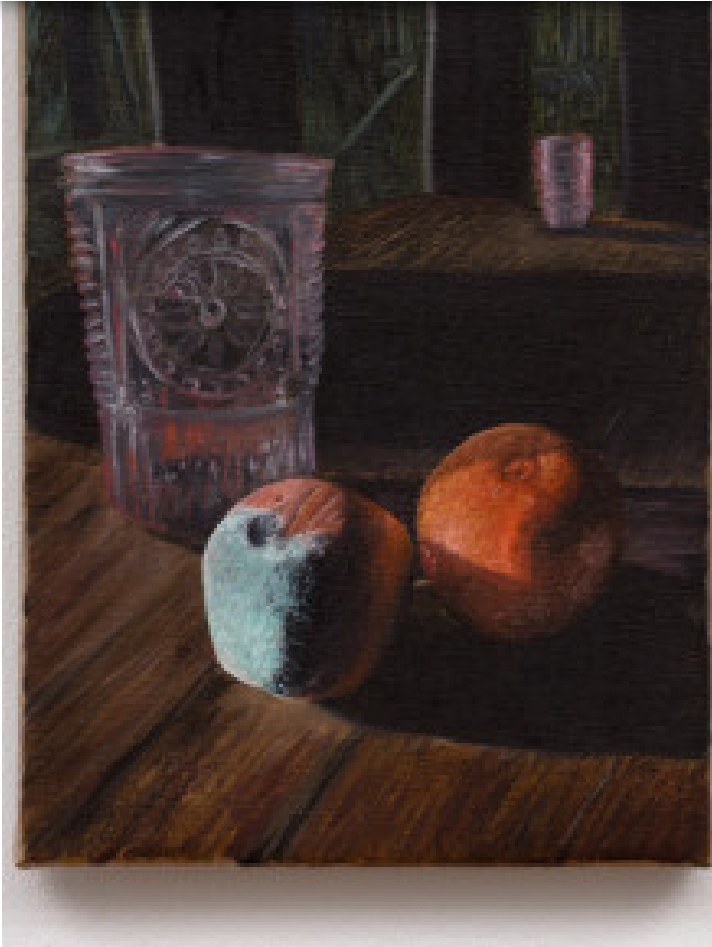
Ulla von Brandenburg "Le milieu est blu" at Palais de Tokyo, Paris  
(Read more)



EXHIBITIONS  
Srijon Chowdhury at Foxy Production, New York  
[\(Read more\)](#)



EXHIBITIONS  
Josh Smith "Life" at Eva Presenhuber, Zurich  
[\(Read more\)](#)



Mousse Magazine and Publishing  
Corso di Porta Romana, 63,  
20122 Milano, Italy  
T: +39 02 8356631  
F: +39 02 49531400  
E: [info@moussemagazine.it](mailto:info@moussemagazine.it)  
P.IVA 05234930963