

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Andro Wekua

September 14 – October 22, 2022

Opening Reception: September 15, 5:30 – 7:30pm

130 East 64th Street, New York

In his exhibition at Gladstone 64, Georgian artist Andro Wekua presents a series of new paintings that continue upon his multimedia approach in articulating familiar yet strange, specific yet ambiguous representations of memory. Utilizing processes of layering, silk-screening, and collaging with oils, charcoals, and pencils, Wekua builds upon many layered surfaces to bring forth complex narratives that combine facets of history, geography, fantasy, and memory into physically and conceptually dense compositions. These impenetrable characters and spaces, borne from both universal and deeply personal places and experiences, do not allow for strict interpretation but require a deeper look into the universal condition.

Working across various physical mediums – such as painting, sculpting, drawing, filmmaking, installation – and his own feelings and understandings, Wekua's expansive body of work questions and visualizes the intersections of recent history and psychological space. Deeply personal and bursting with vibrant greens, blues, and yellow fields, Wekua reconfigures elements and subjects from earlier works offering the viewer a complex web of artifacts to be untangled and excavated with each presentation of the artist's work.

In this exhibition, Wekua continues upon his painting practice with a series of works on canvas and aluminum panel. Set amidst wholly abstracted landscapes, figures float and dangle within the confines of geometric space. The otherwise abstract forms are reminiscent of lava, carrying discernable forms, like palm leaves, human limbs, flames, complex geometric shapes, and complementing fields and blotches of color. Faces and human figures stare longingly back at the viewer or just outside of frame. Each surface is layered with heavy yet delicate expanses of tactile paint, alluding to a progression of time and time-based process that transcends the confines of each final image. Wekua's ongoing reinterpretation of scenes and images that have helped define his oeuvre suggest a recurring impulse to bring renewed structure and understanding to the past in order to find alternative outcomes.

Andro Wekua was born in 1977 in Georgia, and studied visual arts there and in Basel, Switzerland. Solo museum exhibitions include Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland; Garage Museum of

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Contemporary Art, Moscow; Kölnischer Kunstverein, Germany; Kunsthalle Wien, Austria; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany; Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; WIELS, Brussels; Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Switzerland; Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Camden Arts Center, London; the De Hallen Haarlem, Netherlands; Le Magasin, Grenoble, France; and the Benaki Museum, Athens. He has participated in various group shows including "ILLUMInations" at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); "Contemplating the Void" at the Guggenheim Museum in New York (2010); "10,000 Lives," 8th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2010); "Life on Mars: 55th Carnegie International," Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2008), and the 4th Berlin Biennial (2006).

For further information, please contact Andrew Huff: ahuff@gladstonegallery.com New York
gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm
Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm and Saturday, 12pm–6pm