

# Future Fair

New York, 2025

**EXO**gallery

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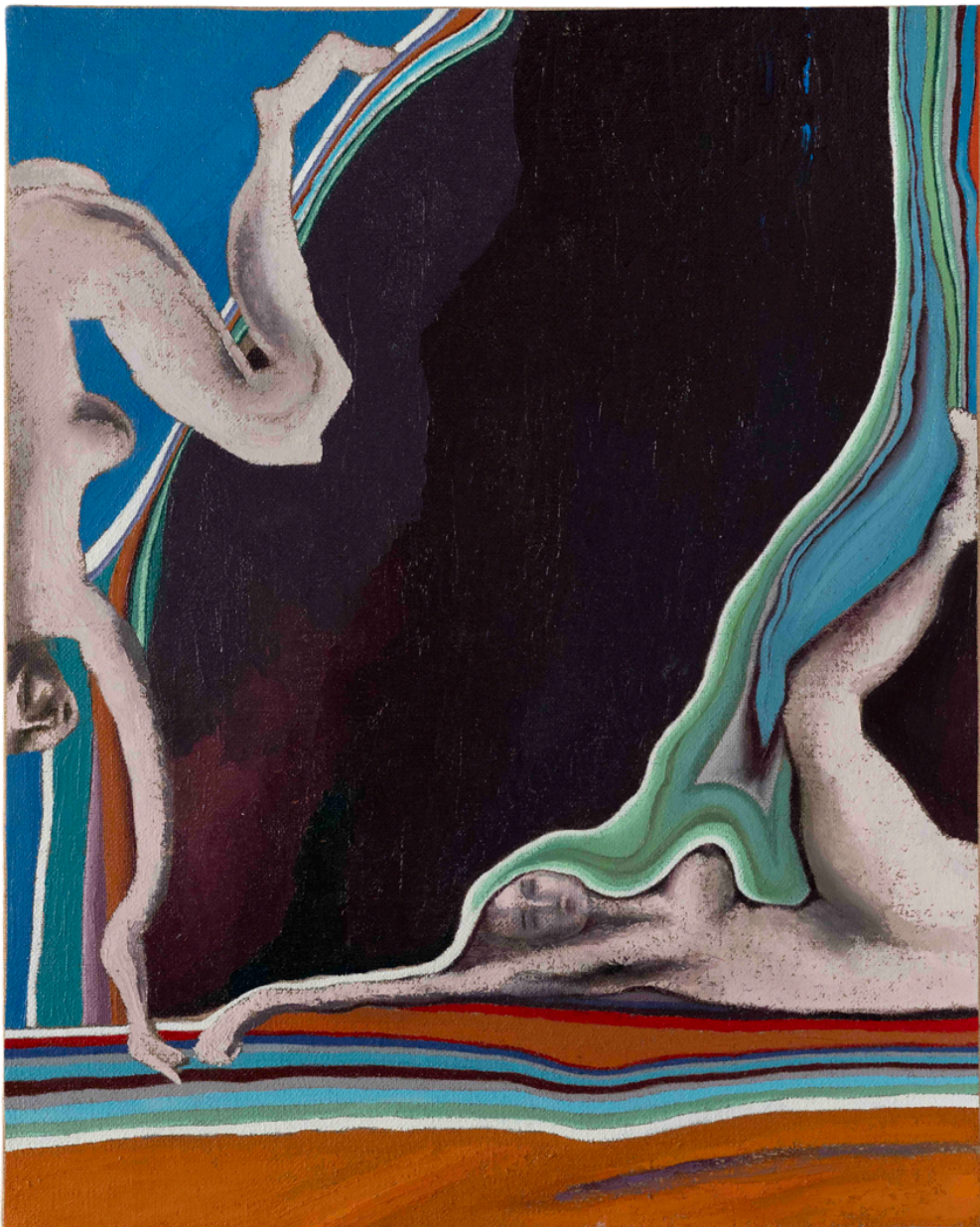
## Curatorial Concept

As first-time exhibitors at Future Fair, we are excited to present two gallery artists: Maria Kozak and Ivo Nikić. Their artworks reflect a shared fascination with dismantling reality, questioning conventions, and exploring the human experience through a fusion of timeless and contemporary influences.

The surreal landscapes of the human psyche, where humor, absurdity, and introspection collide are common themes in the oeuvre of both artists.

Ivo draws on hip-hop and street art sampling technique which he upcycles in interactive artworks allowing viewers to create their own art pieces. Kozak, a New York Academy of Art graduate, blurs the lines between the conscious and unconscious, challenging perceptions of identity, meaning and the power of shaping your own reality.

Kozak will debut new artworks, created exclusively for this presentation, marking their first-ever public unveiling.



*An Axe for the Frozen Sea Between Us, 2025*  
Maria Kozak

Oil on jute  
35.82 x 27.95 in  
91 x 71 cm



*Talk to me, listen to me, 2023*  
Ivo Nikić

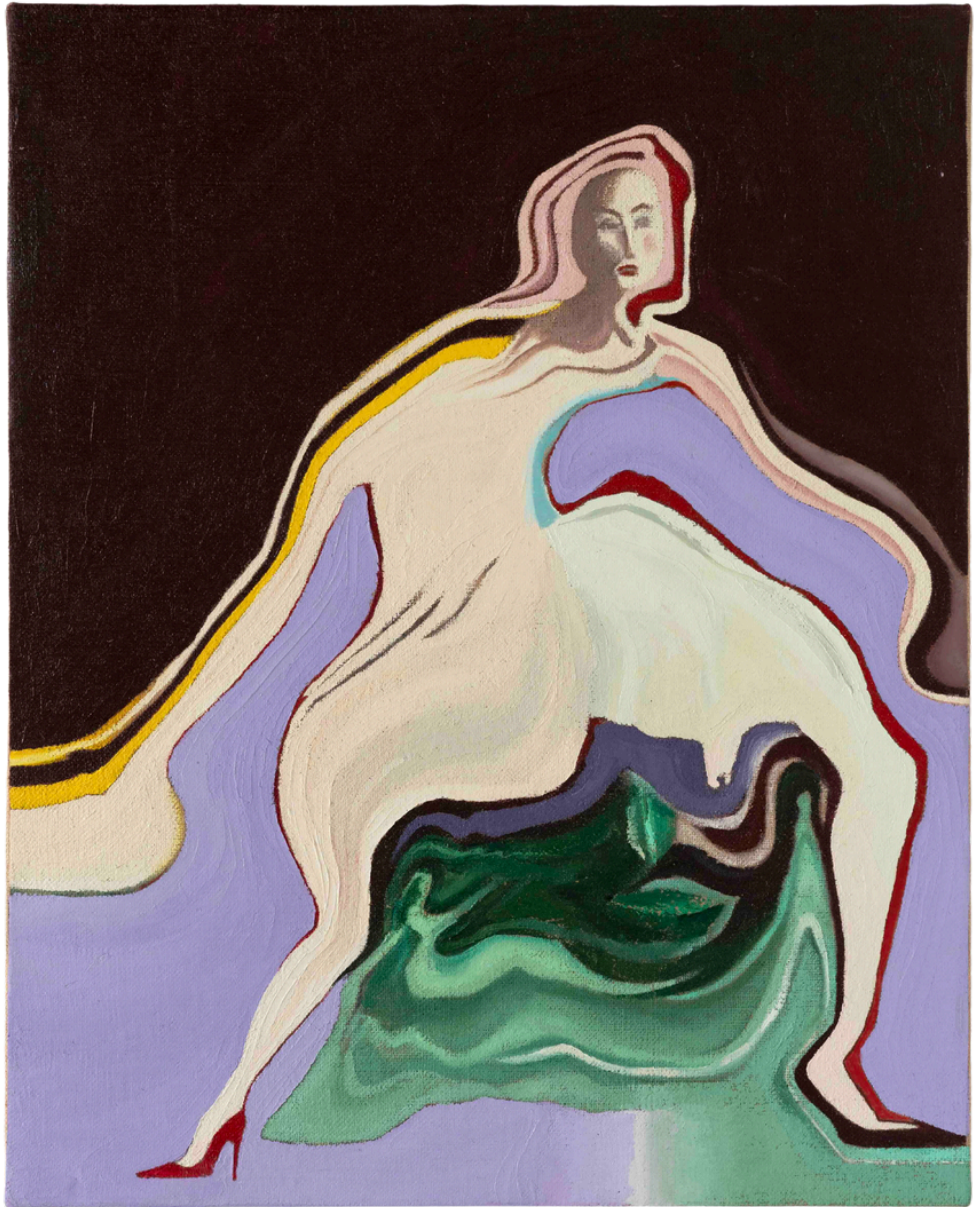
Acrylic on canvas  
47.2 x 39.4 in  
120 x 100 cm





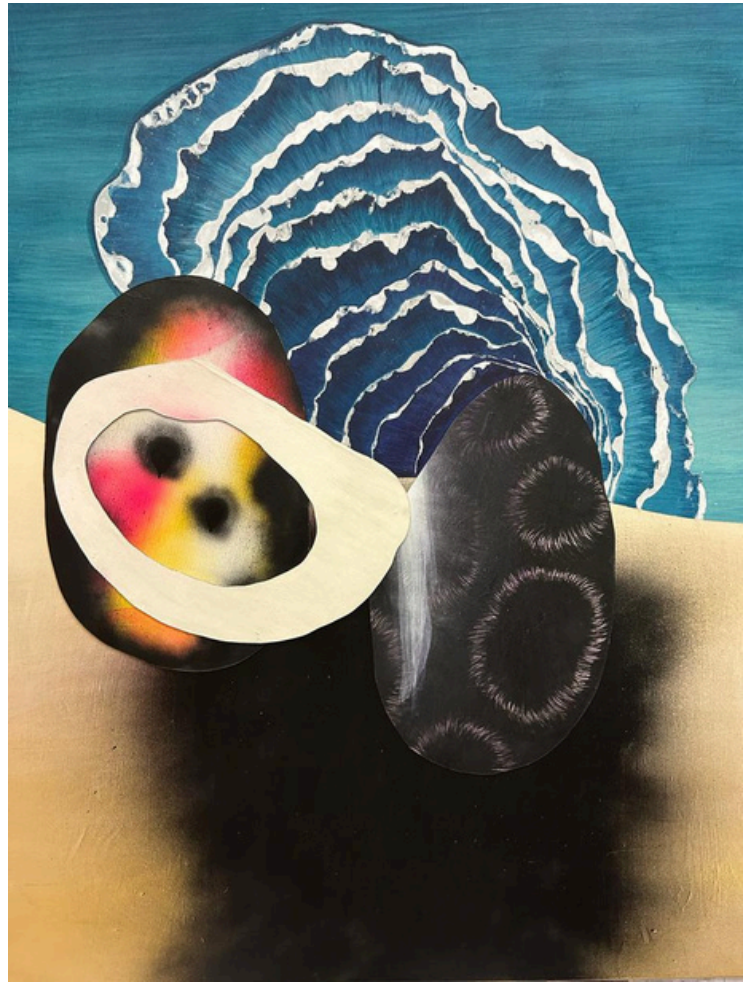
Detail: Ivo Nikić, Talk to me, listen to me.





*Galatea, 2025*  
Maria Kozak

Oil on jute  
35.82 x 27.95 in  
91 x 71 cm



*Cave into, 2012-2023*  
Ivo Nikić

Interactive Painting: acrylic on  
canvas, removable magnetic  
patches  
59 x 47.2 in | 150 x 120 cm





Detail: Ivo Nikić, Cave into.

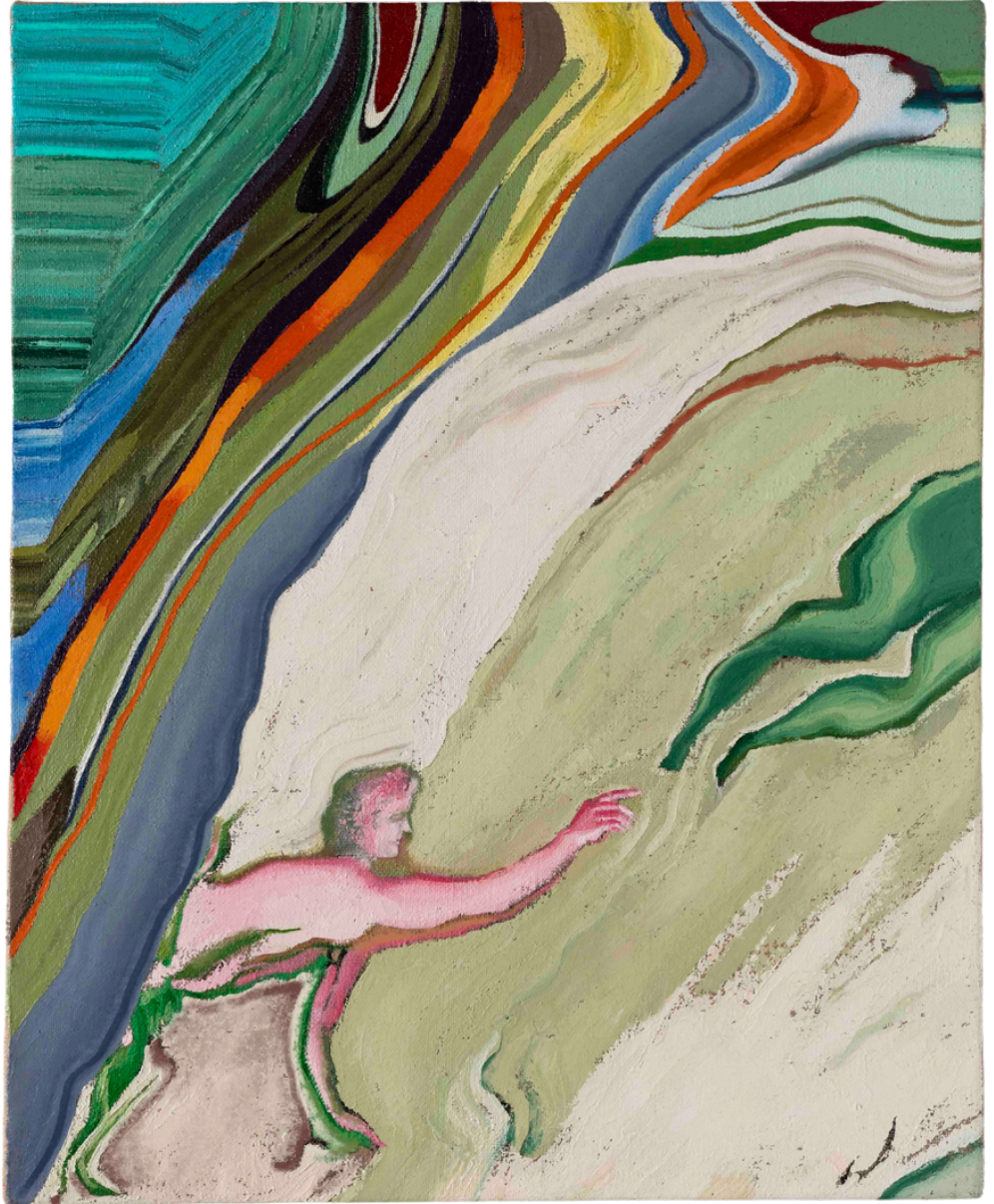




**What is the most challenging part of your process and how do you deal with it?**

Focusing on actually doing the work. Ideally you have these lovely flow states where you are so engrossed that time stops, often when the discovery is happening. Other times you are just executing. I am easily distracted; if I have a new idea or hear a phrase I like, I want to immediately capture it. Then I'll start to research it. Then it's been 2 hours and I know everything there is to know about the Panama Canal, which had nothing to do with the original thought. I get caught in the magical trap machine, our great societal plight.





*The Reach, 2025*  
Maria Kozak

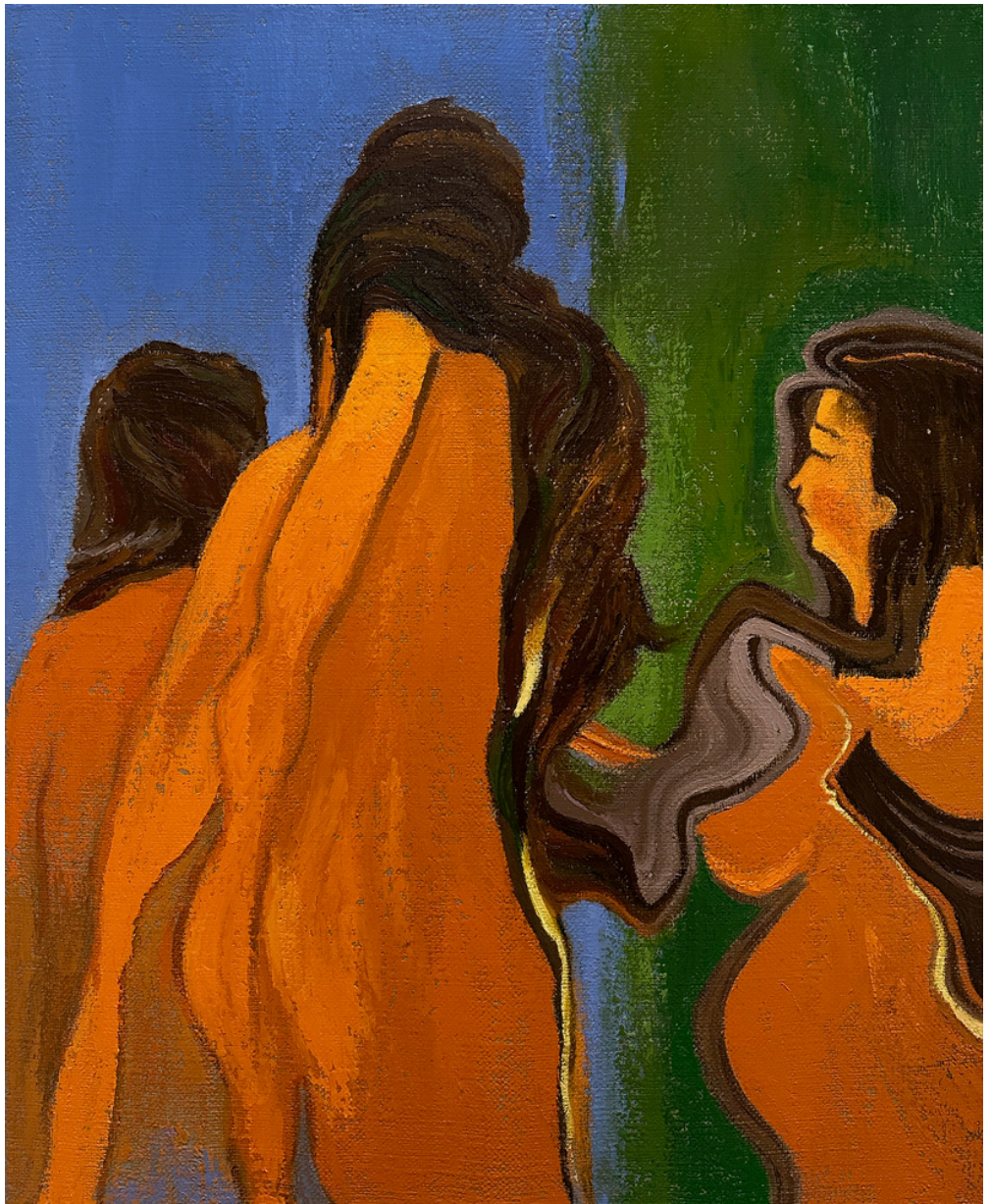
Oil on jute  
35.82 x 27.95 in  
91 x 71 cm



*In*, 2013  
Ivo Nikić

Acrylic on canvas  
59 x 47.2 in  
150 x 120 cm





*They Come in Threes, 2024*  
Maria Kozak

Oil on jute  
31 x 26 in  
80 x 65 cm





*Squeeze the D, 2013*  
Ivo Nikić

Acrylic on canvas  
59 x 47.2 in  
150 x 120 cm



Detail: Installation View, The Cave, EXOgallery, NADA East Broadway, 2023, artworks by Ivo Nikić





*Incubator, 2020-23*  
Ivo Nikić

Interactive Painting: acrylic on  
canvas, magnetic removable  
patches  
59 x 47.2 in | 150 x 120 cm



Detail: Installation View, The Cave, EXOgallery, NADA East Broadway, 2023, artworks by Ivo Nikić





**What parts of your practice do you find the most joy and freedom in?**

The moment I find most liberating and joyful in my creative process is when I begin a painting without a fully formed vision of what it will ultimately become. (...) This sense of uncertainty creates an open space for experimentation and new solutions. There are times when, by the end of the day, the painting has developed in a direction I hadn't anticipated, and these moments are the most exciting for me.

A key point in my process is breaking free from habitual approaches and embracing risk-making decisions that could lead to irreversible changes. When I embrace spontaneity and openness, I discover a new dimension in my work.





*Transformer Nestling, 2014*  
Ivo Nikić

Interactive painting with removable  
magnetic patches  
Ed. of 4  
16 x 12 in | 40 x 30 cm





*Transformer I, 2015*  
Ivo Nikić

Interactive painting with removable  
magnetic patches  
8 x 8 in | 20 x 20 cm



*Transformer II, 2015*  
Ivo Nikić

Interactive painting with removable  
magnetic patches  
16 x 12 in | 40 x 30 cm



## Ivo Nikić

### Artist Bio

Ivo Nikić (born in 1974 in Pristina, now Kosovo), is a Polish-Kosovan multidisciplinary artist; his work includes painting, photography, installations, objects, video, and actions in urban space.

He is interested in the urban landscape, corporeality, music, waste, and aesthetic jumble. He draws from street art style – stencils and spray paint – which he combines with the technique of lasering and texture painting. Ivo has developed mobile paintings with magnetic paint patches that can be rearranged on the picture plane.

The Artist plays with connotations and undertone, dismantles the world into basic elements, questions ready-made solutions, and re-evaluates categories of beauty and ugliness.

In 2003 he graduated in painting at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, PL in the studio of Prof. Jaroslaw Modzelewski. Since then, he's been an active prolific artist. In 2006 he was an Artist-In-Residence fellow in Bern, Switzerland.

He has participated in numerous group and individual exhibitions in Poland (CCA Ujazdowski Castle, BWA Zielona Gora, Studio Gallery, Arsenal Gallery in Poznan, Focus Łódź Biennale) and in the world (among others: Humboldt Berlin, Umspannwerk; Bat-Yam International Biennale of Landscape Urbanism in Israel; Rotor in Graz, Tokyo Fashion Week, in 2023 takes part in Autostrada Biennale in Kosovo).

Ivo lives and works in Warsaw, Poland.

## Maria Kozak Artist Bio

Maria Kozak is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in upstate New York and Warsaw, Poland. Her drawings and paintings are intuited, psychological landscapes of figures that exist beyond the conventional boundaries of time, space, and identity. Driven by existential inquiries into the nature of reality, Kozak's work embraces the full spectrum of human experience—from the sacred to the profane. Descended from a long line of dowzers, alchemists and Polish mystics, she sees the undercurrent of energy creating and connecting all things. She illustrates these subtle frequencies in an effort to make the unseen, seen. Her work is characterized by dissolving forms, layered narratives and ambiguity. It continues traditions of German Expressionism, Surrealism, psychedelia and the transavantgarde.

Her work is found in collections nationally and abroad and has been mentioned in ARTnews, the Wall Street Journal, Cool Hunting and Paper magazine. She has shown most recently at LETO Gallery in Warsaw, Dreamsong in Minneapolis and The Detroit Public Library.

Kozak (born 1981 in Cracow, Poland) has a Master's degree in painting from the New York Academy of Art and is an alumni of NEW INC, the New Museum's incubator for art + technology. She was awarded a NYFA/NYSCA Grant and a Schusterman Foundation Fellowship for her work in emerging technology. She is also currently the Editor-at-large of Przekrój, Poland's oldest culture magazine.

## Gallery Profile

EXOgallery is a dynamic art space dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary, neo-conceptual art projects and research-driven works that ignite intercultural dialogue and broaden the landscape of contemporary artistic discourse. Committed to offering fresh perspectives and inspiration, the gallery strives to engage a diverse audience, creating a platform where art challenges conventions and sparks meaningful connections across cultures and ideas.

The gallery is run by the owner and curator Ilona Keilich. EXOgallery was established in 2022 in Stuttgart, Germany, and have since organised multiple interdisciplinary exhibitions, and art performances as well as participated in art fairs across Europe on top of having curated an EXOgallery group exhibition at LUNCH, the premises of NADA in New York.

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