

# GAVLAK

Enoc Perez  
*The Idea of Us*  
March 22 – April 20, 2019

Opening Reception: March 30, 2019 1-3pm

Brunch conversation with Bonnie Clearwater and Enoc Perez, 11:30am

Gavlak Palm Beach is pleased to announce the opening of *The Idea of Us*, a solo exhibition by New York based artist Enoc Perez (b. 1967, San Juan, Puerto Rico). This will be his first solo exhibition with Gavlak. The reception will be preceded by a discussion between Enoc Perez and curator Bonnie Clearwater, director and chief curator of Nova Southeastern University's Museum of Fort Lauderdale, who organized Perez's first major Museum exhibition at MOCA Miami in 2000.

Enoc Perez is largely known for imbuing nostalgic qualities into his paintings of iconic twentieth century buildings. Since moving to New York in the late 1980's, Perez has been influenced by the mid-century architecture responsible for ushering in a new era of modernity as well as shifting the center of culture and capitalistic optimism from Europe to the United States.

Among the most notable buildings in New York, Perez has painted the Eero Saarinen TWA terminal, the Mies van der Rohe's Seagram building, the United Nations building, and the Lever House, this painting he exhibited in the building's lobby in 2007. Perez responds to the process and medium of painting these structures as saying "I love painting, and I believe in painting, and I share that with these architects who believed in utopia. A lot of painters paint to question the medium, which might be conducive to their practice, but I'm one of those who really believes in painting."

Influence by artists such as Andy Warhol and his silkscreen method or Robert Rauschenberg's use of similar techniques to blur lines between painting and printmaking, Perez experimented with comparable techniques. What he developed was a process of transferring an image painted with oil paint onto a piece of paper and then pressing and rubbing back of the paper onto the canvas. This labor-intensive way of painting produces a texture and patina to the painting's surface creating an impression of utopian bygone epoch of architecture, style and design.

# GAVLAK

Having mastered this unique painting method and exploring the application of that to various series of Embassy's around the world, the artist next turned to the subject of interiors. Working from shifting the paradigms of: exterior to interior, macro to micro and public view to the private view, the artist further initiates a dialogue between painter, artist, patron and ultimately the viewer. By giving us a glimpse into the private spaces of eccentric individuals and creative geniuses through works such as "*(Untitled) Apartment of Andy Warhol, New York City,*" a large canvas showing the contents of the artists medicine cabinet and "*Salon Verdoyant Apartment of Pauline de Rothschild, Paris,*" Perez draws a connection between individual personalities and the concept of a dwelling as portraiture. Similar in atmosphere and approach to color and composition of Henri Matisse's masterpiece "*The Dessert: Harmony in Red*", 1908 Enoc Perez's rooms celebrate pattern and decoration. Like the flat, colorful walls and green garden seen through the window in the aforementioned Matisse work, the fabric, wallpaper, two Warhol flower paintings and a floral arrangement of calla lily and dahlias found in the work "*23 East 74<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City...*" become one sumptuous surface. In both paintings, while created centuries apart, we see the collapsing of hierarchical standards between interior design and decorative arts and painting's "High Art" status. Notions of beauty, pleasure and the love of painting and art history over critique and deconstruction are clearly embraced and celebrated in the paintings included in "*The Idea of Us*".

Enoc Perez's artwork can be found in: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; British Museum, London; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; New York Public Library; RISD Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University; The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles; Williams College Museum of Art; Queens Museum; University Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University; Art, Design, and Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara; Richmond Center for Visual Arts, Western Michigan University; Vera List Center, New School; and the Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin.

All current exhibitions will be on view through April 20, 2019 at Gavlak Palm Beach (340 Royal Poinciana Way, Ste M307, Palm Beach, FL 33480). For more information concerning the exhibitions, or for press inquiries, please contact John J. McGurk at [john@gavlakgallery.com](mailto:john@gavlakgallery.com), or 561-833-0583.