



**Palo Gallery Presents: *Early Bird***  
30 Bond Street, New York, NY 10012  
30 June – 8 August 2025  
Opening Reception: Friday, 27 June | 6–8 PM



Ameen Abo Kaseem, *Damascus, Syria.*, Courtesy of the Artist.

**Palo Gallery** (New York) is delighted to present their upcoming show, *Early Bird*, a group presentation of over 20 artists spanning painting, photography, sculpture and works on paper. This exhibition explores the enduring varietal symbolism of birds throughout art and history, from the cave paintings of Lascaux and Egyptian hieroglyphics, to Greco-Roman myths and the flying machines of the Wright Brothers. This selection of artists explores birds as both historical symbols and personal motifs, reflecting on their significance in historical and contemporary practices.

The exhibition will feature artworks by R. Jesse Baltazar, Sasha Brodsky, Xanthe Burdett, Lily Burgess, Steven Molina Contreras, Leyla Fischer, Paulina Freifeld, Camille Henrot, Carlos Jamarillo, Ameen Abo Kaseem, Claudia Keep, Oidie Kuijpers, Malù dalla Piccola, Charlie Roberts, India Sachi, Sage Schachter, Kiki Smith, Orejarena & Stein, Nicola Tyson, Paul Vogeler, Nikko Washington, and Rachel Wolf.

Birds have been powerful symbols across civilizations, appearing as divine messengers, carriers of freedom, and embodiments of beauty and transcendence. Long after they took to the skies, birds soared through our stories, dreams, and collective imagination. In ancient art, they appeared as divine messengers, from bird-human hybrids in the Lascaux caves, to the symbolic



pigeon in Egyptian hieroglyphics, and to ravens and doves in imagery of the Old Testament. In Greek mythology, birds carried layered meanings: the eagle symbolized Zeus's power, the owl embodied Athena's wisdom, and the swan connected to the beauty of Aphrodite and Apollo. These mythologies continue to resonate in the contemporary works of Leyla Fischer and Claudia Keep, who respectively reimagine the owl as an intuitive guide and the swan as a figure of quiet grace. In contrast, India Sachi's painting evokes a darker tone, with circling crows challenging us to confront our mortality.

During the Medieval and Renaissance periods, birds reinforced religious themes, while artists like Leonardo da Vinci meticulously studied their anatomy to understand the mechanics of flight. Echos of these studies can be found in Xanthe Burdett's *Twice Bitten* while entwining religious symbolism. By the modern era, birds had taken on new political and emotional significance, from Picasso's *Dove of Peace* to Joan Miró's surrealist explorations of freedom.

*Early Bird* serves as a cross-temporal dialogue, highlighting how the bird continues to evolve as a cultural symbol. Once tethered to mythology and science, birds today often signify freedom, migration, identity, and the soul's journey. The exhibition offers space for contemporary artists to explore what birds mean to them now, presenting diverse, intimate, and urgent perspectives on the bird's role in both artistic and social discourse. Birds have continued to fascinate the human imagination for millennia, and the works in *Early Bird* explore this enduring relationship.

Please join Palo Gallery and some of the artists for a celebratory opening reception on Friday, 27 June, from 6–8pm at 30 Bond Street in New York City.

### **About Palo Gallery**

Palo Gallery was established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector Paul Henkel with a focus on academic and historically contextualized contemporary art. Scholarship and historical canon are at the forefront in the consideration of each group, solo or duo exhibition. The gallery program's curatorial focus aims to frame contemporary art within the context of art and social history, and are committed to offering artists unique opportunities to elaborate on these concerns.

Originating as a pop-up, the gallery opened its flagship location, designed by Selldorf Architects, on Bond Street in NoHo in September 2022, offering 3,400 square feet of exhibition space, giving artists the opportunity to work on a large scale. In June 2024, Palo's second location in New York City opened in the East Village, serving as a more intimate space for emerging artists and experimental exhibitions to have their own spotlight. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic presentations, offering artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal, intersecting cultural and historical topics.



After participating in Art Cologne 2023, Art Cologne 2024, ZsONAMACO 2025, and EXPO Chicago 2025, Palo Gallery is excited to announce their upcoming participation at Aspen Art Fair 2025 and Untitled Miami 2025.

### **Locations**

Palo Gallery  
30 Bond Street  
New York, NY 10012

Palo Gallery  
21 East 3rd Street  
New York, NY 10003

### **Summer Hours**

23 June to 8 August 2025  
Monday to Friday, 11-6pm

### **Current & Upcoming Exhibitions**

*Early Bird*  
30 Bond Street  
30 June to 8 August 2025

*Roberto Maria Lino: Sutura*  
21 East 3rd Street  
26 June to 8 August 2025

### **Media Contacts**

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