

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACK PENNY: RESERVATIONS

November 7 – December 20, 2024

Dan Yoshii is pleased to present *Reservations*, the debut U.S. exhibition of acclaimed artist Jack Penny. Renowned for his dynamic and highly animated genre paintings, Penny’s work captivates audiences with vivid narratives and expressive figures, drawing them into a world where the absurdity and perseverance of human existence are laid bare.

In *Reservations*, Penny explores the tensions of contemporary life through lively, often exaggerated characters – from chefs and waiters to diners – who find themselves grappling with life’s inherent struggles. These dramatic compositions push the boundaries of traditional painting, reflecting on the frenetic pace of urban life as viewed through a detached observer’s lens. Penny’s work captures not only the humor and mischief of these moments but also the anxiety and stress that underscore high-pressure environments.

Conflict, a central theme in Penny’s oeuvre, mirrors the everyday challenges of human existence, with *Reservations* offering a critical examination of the human condition. Through his works, Penny delves into the delicate balance between the impulse to embrace childlike spontaneity and the external social, cultural, and institutional constraints that suppress it. His paintings present a multifaceted critique of the formalities that structure our lives, highlighting the ironic juxtaposition between the pursuit of leisure and the forces that restrict it.

The title *Reservations* itself carries layers of meaning. As Penny explains, “It pokes fun at us as a whole, so naturally, I expect people will have reservations about it, which I think is a healthy place to be.” On one level, the title reflects the hesitations or uncertainties that viewers may feel when confronted with the complex themes of his work. On another, it alludes to the literal sense of the word – activities depicted in the paintings, such as dining, golfing, and fishing, often requiring reservations to participate. These routine acts become metaphors for the structured, ritualized nature of modern life, where spontaneity is overshadowed by social norms and scheduling.

In this body of work, Penny critiques the way our lives are governed by formalities, exposing the tension between indulgence and restraint, both in life and in our interaction with his art.

Jack Penny currently lives and works in West Sussex, UK. His work has been exhibited internationally, including in London, Berlin, St. Moritz, Madrid, Hong Kong, and now, New York City.

Exhibition Title: Reservations

Artist: Jack Penny

Location: 833 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Dates: November 7 – December 20, 2024

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