

# VAN DER PLAS GALLERY

## PRESS RELEASE

### **VAN DER PLAS GALLERY**

156 ORCHARD ST  
NEW YORK, NY 10002

*A New Beginning* All Art+  
January 21 - January 31  
By appointment



From January 21st to 31st, **Van Der Plas Gallery** is pleased to present the works of fifty local and international artists in *A New Beginning*. The newest edition of our All Art + series is inspired by the spirit of the Vienna Secession, a highly

influential Art Nouveau movement that brought the art world into a “new beginning.” Pre-Secession (late 1800s), Austrian art was controlled by the uncompromising traditions of the Vienna Academy of Art, which was under the direct authority of the state. Visionaries Gustav Klimt and Joseph Hoffmann, among others, challenged the establishment and ushered in this new age of creative freedom.

After an eventful and trying 2020, Van Der Plas Gallery is looking to 2021 as a year of rebirth. Consequently, we hope our gallery can embody the spirit of the Vienna Secession, the physical home and exhibition space of the movement.

Jacob Guzman’s *Take It Off* envelops the viewer in a riotous mix of color and line. The artist blends flesh tones and symbols as faces, masks and objects emerge and recede from the viewer’s sight. A candle sits in the corner, unlit; blurry figures sit around a table; a skinny tree struggles to grow out of the frame. Guzman describes the painting as a “direct message telling you to strip yourself of your image”. During the tumultuous events of the past year, many of us have had ample time to contemplate the

self-images that we carry with us; what mask of your own might you see reflected in *Take It Off?*

In his work *26 d.D (26 after Djonga)*, Brazilian artist Pedro Mazzinghy brings together Klimt, Basquiat, and the Pieta. A multicolored mother holds a skeletal crowned figure in her arms as he holds aloft a scepter. Like many works in the Pieta theme before it, *26 d.D* mourns through tragedy, with the hope of a future resurrection - a "New Beginning" after a year of hardships.

In the 19th century in Italy's Dolomites mountains, bears were once hunted to extinction. Over the past 30 years however, conservation efforts have finally brought back a thriving population of brown bears to their original habitat. The pictorial gesture of John Bellan's *The Last Bear 1897*, depicts this return in stylized fashion. A powerful bear towers over a human figure, exploding out of the landscape of the mountains and the valleys - contained within itself, future generations taking back their rightful home.

Sarah Hall's piece *Blank Face and No Expectations* offers a cathartic experience to viewers through the image of a distorted portrait. The representation of a face that was once a man has been melted down into a mask concealing the upset caused by so many traumatic and unexpected events that occurred within the past year.

**NEW YORK, NY - VAN DER PLAS GALLERY** will be featuring works from artists [Marisa Companion](#), [Filippo Bettini](#), [John Bellan](#), [Ciet Friethoff](#), [Rosalind Keith](#), [Lenor Bingham](#), [Bob Brzuszek](#), [Shirley Cheung](#), [Pedro Mazzinghy](#), [Guto Vilaverde](#), [Designer's Ro](#), [Jacob Guzman](#), [Aaron Jackson Bowman](#), [Leanna Studio](#), [Sarah Hall](#), [Ansu Airas](#), [Hortense Ardan](#), [Mimi Herrera Pease](#), [Barbara Schedl](#), [Leonardo Barreto](#), [Phil Demise Smith](#), [Sabrina Walcher](#), [Marina Zanello](#), [Urban Castro](#), [Charlie Chesterman](#), [Joanna Chrysohoidis](#), [Peter Kunt](#), [Metisse](#), [Riikka Korpela](#), [Melissa Schainker](#), Sandra Avalos, [Judy Collins](#), [Alessio Ayuninjam](#), [Michelle O'Connor](#), [Joe Taveras](#), [Maira Pyrgioti](#), Behnam Nematollahi, [Laura Bianco](#), [Mudmouth](#), Ludovic Hamel, [An Selen](#), [Cody Kussoy](#), [Jill Hellman](#), [Joshua Maroney](#), [David Affagard](#), Robert Aikens, [Jae Won Jung](#), [Austin Smithers](#), [Richard Ponzi](#), Thomas Cox, [Brvning](#), Thierry Valiquette, and [Nikki Chris](#) in its upcoming exhibition *A New Beginning*. The exhibition will be displayed from January 21 to January 31, 2021.

For more information please contact the gallery:

(917) 459-5316

Open Daily 11am-5pm

[vanderplasmuseum.com](http://vanderplasmuseum.com)