

Hernan Bas

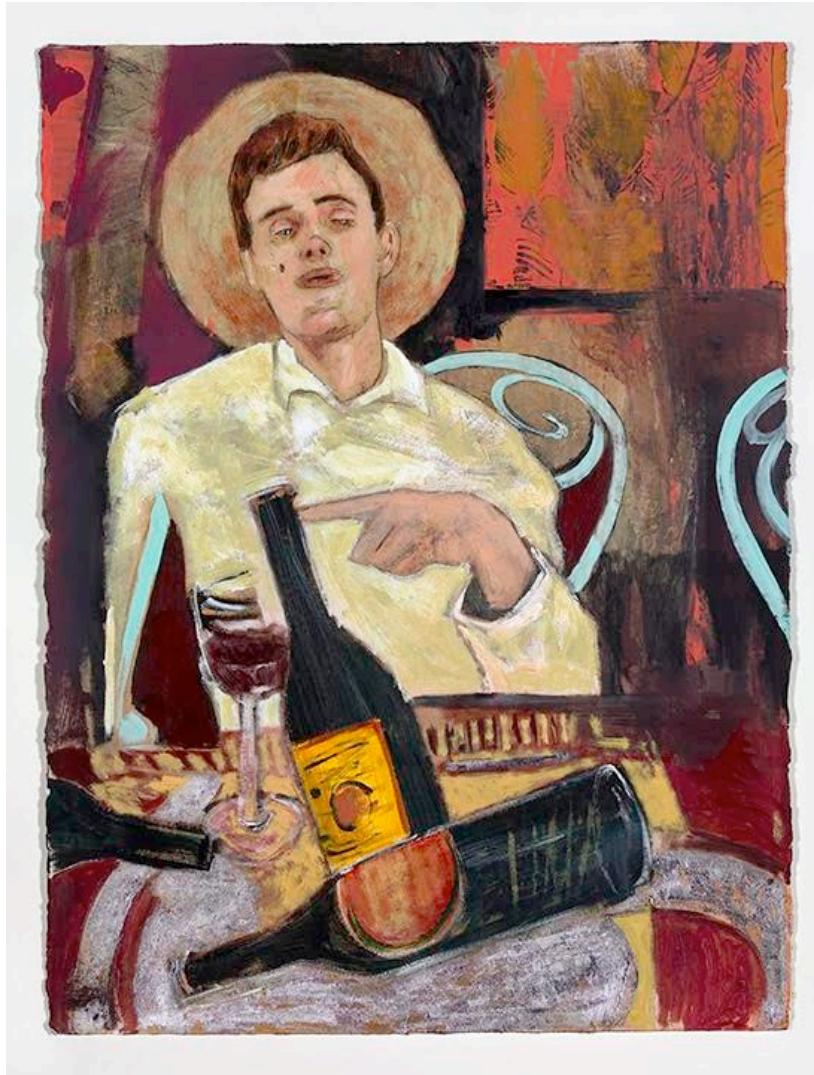
*Bright Young Things*

March 10-April 23, 2016

536 West 22nd Street, New York

#hernanbas | #brightyoungthings

**Opening Reception: Thursday, March 10, 6-8 PM**



*Another...*, 2015, acrylic, colored pencil, chalk pastel, oil pastel and mirror foil on paper, 30 x 22.5 in, 76.2 x 57.1 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, February 16, 2016—**Lehmann Maupin** is pleased to present **Hernan Bas' *Bright Young Things***, the artist's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, featuring new paintings on canvas and paper. Bas draws from a pool of references found in art, poetry, religion, mythology, film, and literature. In this recent

series, he turns his attention specifically to 1920s London, and a group of young, bohemian aristocrats that emerged post-World War I. **The artist will be present for an opening reception at the gallery on Thursday, March 10 from 6-8 PM.**

Dubbed “bright young people” or “bright young things” by the media that sensationalized their antics and lavish lifestyle, and later in books such as *Bright Young People: The Lost Generation of London’s Jazz Age* by D.J. Taylor, the high society group was extensively documented by photographer Cecil Beaton, whose images were a primary influence of Bas’ works. For the artist, who has long examined queer male themes found throughout modern history in his work, the characters and settings exemplify the recent past when queerness became a bourgeois privilege—accepted as charming affect rather than criminal act—for a class of young men coming of age following the loss of an older, more “masculine” generation in the war.

Ranging in scale from small, intimate works on paper to large canvases in muted colors with pops of pastel hues, this body of work focuses on general scenes of leisure: the day-to-day of society life, debauched nights, and intimate exchanges between imagined players. Formally, Bas distorts the conventional pictorial field by compressing the foreground and background, and by altering the perceived depth of the spaces in which his figures exist. The paintings are a blend of figuration and abstraction that incorporate classical genres including landscape and portraiture, and, for the first time, nod to early 20<sup>th</sup> century American still lifes and Art Deco motifs. Bas is equally prodigious in his experimentation with various techniques and materials—such as airbrush, wood block, acrylic, gold leaf, and house paint—as he is with his reference points.

Although well-read on these subjects, Bas prefers to focus on enduring myths as well as his own internalized interpretations, rather than the factual components. The resulting works in *Bright Young Things* depict a decade-long span where eccentricities were not repressed but rather celebrated, however superficially, for their entertainment value.

Prior to his gallery exhibition *Bright Young Things*, Lehmann Maupin (booth B9) will also show artworks by Bas in a solo presentation at **ADAA’s The Art Show 2016**, running from March 2-6. Additionally, the artist has forthcoming museum solo exhibitions scheduled at the Nanjing Sifang Art Museum, China in fall 2016 and at the San Antonio Museum of Art in summer 2017.

### **About the artist**

Born in 1978 in Miami, Florida, Hernan Bas’ work has been exhibited in numerous solo exhibitions around the world, including the installation *TIME, Hernan Bas: a queer and curious cabinet* at the Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2013); a retrospective exhibition at the Kunstverein Hannover, Germany (2012); and a major presentation at the Rubell Family Collection, Miami (2007), which subsequently traveled to the Brooklyn Museum of Art (2008). In 2014, Rizzoli published a monograph on the artist, the most comprehensive book of his work to date. Bas has participated in a number of important group exhibitions including *The Collectors* curated by Elmgreen & Dragset for the Nordic and Danish Pavilions at the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009); *Triumph of Painting: Part III*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2005); *Ideal Worlds—New Romanticism in Contemporary Art*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2005); and the 2004 Whitney Biennial. His work is included in the permanent collections of Brooklyn Museum of Art; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney

Museum of American Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others. The artist lives and works in Detroit and Miami.

### **About Lehmann Maupin**

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

### **Current & Upcoming Exhibitions**

Catherine Opie, *700 Nimes Road*, through February 20, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street & *Portraits and Landscapes*, through March 5, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street  
Tony Oursler, *PrIV%te*, through March 5, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building  
Nicholas Hlobo, February 24-April 17, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street  
Tracey Emin, *I Cried Because I Love You*, March 21-May 21, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building  
Adriana Varejão, *Kindred Spirits*, April 21-June 19, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street  
Tracey Emin, May 5-June 18, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

For more information on Hernan Bas or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan at +1 212 255 2923, or visit [lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com).

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