

D. D. D. D.

179 Canal St, Ste 3B,  
New York, NY 10013  
dd@dddd.pictures

## Ronan Day-Lewis *The Friend*

Opening Friday May 26, 6-8pm  
May 26 - July 2 2023  
11am-5pm Saturday & Sunday  
weekdays by appointment

### Press Release

To inaugurate its expanded space, D.D.D.D. is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new works by Ronan Day-Lewis. In addition to a series of paintings, the artist will unveil a monumental sculpture, a first in his practice.

*The Friend* creates an uncanny reality that combines dread and mystical elation. Like much of Day-Lewis' work, this new series offers something at once celebratory and ominous: a distinct nihilistic ecstasy. Through neon colors and a dark, filmic hue as well as the recurring form of what Day-Lewis calls "the creature," these works transport us into a new world that is almost terrifyingly familiar; one that reaches for the sublime, for something under the fabric of the everyday, while reflecting on the ultimate futility of that very act. Distorting familiar, iconic settings such as the American Museum of Natural History and vast expanses of California desert, Day-Lewis' paintings gesture toward a special Americana sublime.

The central sculpture - a three-dimensional manifestation of the presences in Day-Lewis' canvases - brings the surreal space of his paintings into the gallery and present world. The entity bows its head, balancing its 250 pounds of wax flesh precariously on four delicately pointed feet. The surrounding paintings glow with such white-hot intensity that they're almost obscured by their own light. Initially striking and beautiful, lingering one's gaze on any one of these objects for too long will hurt. This paradox begs the question: is this world one of agony or ecstasy?

Yet, amid such themes of dread and cynicism, Day-Lewis also offers a distinct childish wonder and love for the same world that he is sick of. "I'm So Sick Of Being Alive / I Love Everything" he titles one work, suggesting that, within this contradictory state, there persists an ever-growing reminder that we are alive right now. In this way, the show is both a memento mori and a celebration of the fugitive moment.

### Artist Biography

Ronan Day-Lewis (b. 1998) is a New York City based painter and award winning filmmaker who grew up in rural Ireland and graduated from Yale University with a BA in Art in 2020. Day-Lewis' visual art, which Cool Hunting wrote "succeeds in transporting visitors into a universe unto itself," has been featured in

publications including Hyperallergic, Office, Whitewall, Artnet, and Cultured. In fall of 2022, he was included in an exhibition of “rising art stars” at Sotheby’s. He has been the subject of solo and two-person presentations at Spring/Break Art Show in its New York City and Los Angeles locations, as well as at Tomato Mouse Gallery in Brooklyn. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include solo presentations at downtown Manhattan’s D.D.D.D. Gallery and Galleri Urbane in Dallas, Texas, and group shows at Kasmin, Winter Street Gallery, Dallas Art Fair and Untitled Art Fair. Day-Lewis’ work as a filmmaker includes a trilogy of official videos commissioned for the Philip Glass album *Les Enfants Terribles*, and the short film *The Sheep* and *the Wolf*, which was awarded Best Independent Short at the IFS film festival. In 2021, he directed an album video for an EP by David Chalmin, who is also the composer for Day-Lewis’ upcoming feature directorial debut.

For more information please e-mail [dd@dddd.pictures](mailto:dd@dddd.pictures)