

# NICODIM

## Daniel Pitín

### *A Race of Peeping Toms*

Los Angeles  
December 12, 2020 – January 30, 2021



Daniel Pitín, *Ocular*, 2020

Daniel Pitín thrives in expectation, it is a color in his palette. He knows we know the fictional characters that populate his canvases via cultural osmosis, that we're familiar with the archetypes. Even if one has never seen the films portrayed within Pitín's work, he inherently understands the inferred relations within each piece: Grace Kelly is humoring the overactive imagination of a hobbled James Stewart, Robert DeNiro is asking *you talkin' to me?*

While Pitín's primary reference points are classic Hollywood, both his filmic and painted compositions are constructed and choreographed more like sets on theater stages, which in turn recall the early pages of western art history—there's as much Velásquez in the underpainting as there is Hitchcock on the surface. Each frame is a window positioned with a view towards pending drama. Pitín's upbringing in communist Czechoslovakia familiarized him with constant outside surveillance from an early age, and the capitalist, post 9-11 iPhone generation has only upgraded this awareness. The architecture of each of his scenes is a constant reminder that his viewer is not dissimilar from a chair-bound James Stewart in *Rear Window*, voyeuristically waiting for something to happen, while simultaneously reminding us that someone is always watching.

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A coming detonation is implicit in each work. Every hue, every brushstroke, every negative space is one of Chekhov's guns. His scenes thrive in these pregnant moments before the explosion, teasing-out the irony that his audience knows those voids will be filled when they least expect it.

Daniel Pitín (b. 1977, Prague, Czechoslovakia) is a leading figure among the generation of artists to have emerged since the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. He received his education from the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague, Czech Republic in 2001, and continues to live and work in Prague. Recent exhibitions include *A Race of Peeping Toms*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020, solo); *A Paper Tower*, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague (2019, solo); *Formal Encounters*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2018); *Broken Windows*, House of Art, České Budejovice (2018, solo); *Grotto*, Charim Gallery, Vienna (2018, solo); *Crystal Gardens*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (2017, solo); *Daniel Pitín: The Mechanical Flowers*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2017, solo); *Cover Story*, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (2012, solo); and *After the Fall*, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY and the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN (2011).

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Daniel Pitín  
*Still Life*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
24.4 x 18.1 in  
62 x 46 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Ocular*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
55.1 x 78.7 in  
140 x 200 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Lily*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
78.7 x 63 in  
200 x 160 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Taxi Driver*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
59.5 x 51.2 in  
151 x 130 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Window*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
78.7 x 59 in  
200 x 150 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Swimming Pool*, 2019  
oil on canvas  
70.9 x 90.5 in  
180 x 230 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Bladder Cherry*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
21.7 x 25.6 in  
55 x 65 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Closing Doors*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
59 x 70.9 in  
150 x 180 cm

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Daniel Pitín  
*Goldfinger*, 2019  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
78.75 x 78.75 in  
200 x 200 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Flying Nurse*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
26.4 x 32.6 in  
67 x 83 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Birds*, 2017  
oil, acrylic, and glued media  
on canvas  
61 x 90.5 in  
155 x 230 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Phone Call*, 2019  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
78.7 x 70.9 in.  
200 x 180 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Swimming*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
67 x 86.6 in  
170 x 220 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Broken Windows*, 2019  
digital video  
6:36 min.  
Ed. of 3 + 1 AP



Daniel Pitín  
*Sunflowers 2*, 2020  
mixed media on canvas  
28 x 25.2 in  
71 x 64 cm



Daniel Pitín  
*Rotations*, 2019  
2x digital video; 2x sound  
7:29 min.  
Ed. of 5 + 1 AP



Daniel Pitín  
*Lovers*, 2020  
oil, acrylic, and glued paper  
on canvas  
18.9 x 16.5 in.  
48 x 42 cm