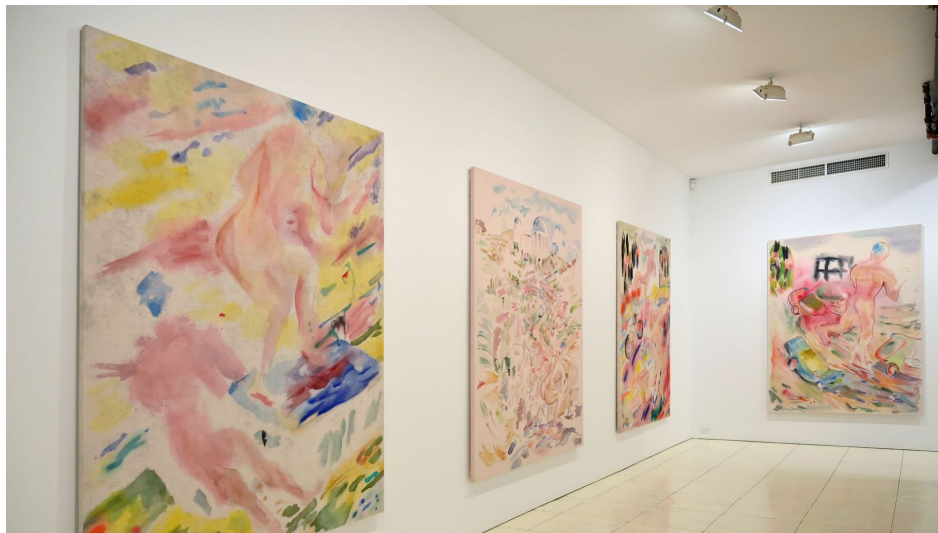


L'EXPRESS

Gus Van Sant, filmmaker and painter, exhibits his watercolors in New York

by Angela Weiss
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Four of the canvases signed Gus Van Sant, photographed on September 16, 2019, are being exhibited at Vito Schnabel Gallery for the first solo show of the acclaimed film director in New York

New York - For more than 40 years of film making, Gus Van Sant has always maintained a parallel interest in painting, one of his youthful passions.

Nine of the most recent paintings by the director of *Elephant*, *My Own Private Idaho* and *Good Will Hunting* have been on view since a few days and until November 1st at the Vito Schnabel Gallery in the Greenwich Village district - his first solo exhibition in New York.

These watercolors on linen, more than 2 meters high, are almost all untitled, with the "main character" being the sketch of a naked man, who seems to float in the middle of a dreamlike landscape made of streams of cars, colors that intertwine, sometimes in the distance a recognizable monument of Los Angeles, the Griffith Observatory.

For this first solo exhibition in New York, Gus Van Sant, who has lived in Los Angeles since the late 1970s, was inspired by many "years spent living not far from Hollywood Boulevard," he explained in an email to AFP.

There is a desire to "transmit all the emotions and transgressive activities that take place there," added the 67-year-old filmmaker, whose work has always focused on

various forms of marginality. "There are also moments of reflection, moments of despair, curiosity, and sometimes madness."

For him, who won the Palme d'Or in Cannes in 2003 for *Elephant* and had great success with *Good Will Hunting* or *Harvey Milk*, painting and making films are "essentially distinct" activities, even if "there are sometimes links".

"Filmmaking is story-driven, with a dramatic tension, while painting has a visual tension that has to do with the composition, the context", he says.

Although this is his first solo exhibition in New York, Gus Van Sant's taste for painting and multidisciplinary work is well known: in 2016, the Cinémathèque française devoted a retrospective to him, showing both his work as a painter and photographer.

In 2011, along with the actor James Franco, he organized an exhibition in Los Angeles, showing both of their paintings.

"Most" of the nine paintings exhibited in New York have already been sold, said Cy Schnabel, brother of gallery owner Vito Schnabel, without specifying for how much or to whom.