

Galerie

ARTISTS TO WATCH



Artist Hilary Pecis in her Los Angeles studio with her 2021 works (from left): *Jake with Pillows*, *Spanish Stairs*, and *Yellow Table*.

As a disciplined runner, Los Angeles painter Hilary Pecis covers anywhere from 45 to 55 miles per week, accumulating countless iPhone photos of the city along the way. "The landscape in L.A. is so incredible," Pecis says during a recent visit to her studio in the Frogtown neighborhood, describing the patchwork of lush front yards, strip mall parking lots, and scenic hillsides on her routes. "From Elysian Park, you look across the freeway and the San Gabriel Mountains are right there."

For "Paths Crossed," her inaugural solo show at David Kordansky's L.A. gallery, on view from March 18 through April 22, Pecis will transform a small sample of her snapshots into acrylic urban landscapes, dialing up the relatively flat hues of these digital images to match the fantastical colors of her memories. The real-life pinks and indigos of a mountain sunset in Santa Monica, for example, "are so much more vibrant than in my photo," she says. (After briefly considering upgrading her phone for a higher-resolution camera, she realized that she actually prefers her imagination.)

Hilary Pecis

The show marks a shift for the artist, who is best known for painting still lifes—domestic tableaux saturated in both the patterns and primary palettes that draw comparisons to David Hockney and Jonas Wood. To compose scenes stripped of right angles or other man-made points of reference "was really exciting to me and also the most challenging," says Pecis, whose artworks display more organic brushstrokes that focus on "connecting natural movements of the sun to shadow and reflection." Capturing this vast subject matter resulted in scaled-up canvases, too: 100 inches tall by 140 inches wide—the largest works she's ever made.

Pecis's show at David Kordansky Gallery, where she worked as a registrar until early 2018, coincides with another milestone—running her 2,000th mile. "I'm so excited, it's ridiculous," she says. "It's a slow journey—you take a little bit at a time, where you enjoy looking around. I want to invite people to come and see where I've been." davidkordanskygallery.com —JANELLE ZARA

LAURE JOLIET, COURTESY OF HILARY PECIS AND DAVID KORDANSKY GALLERY