

## NEWS RELEASE

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY  
7513 Forsyth Boulevard  
Saint Louis, MO 63105

Tuesday -Saturday 11am – 5 pm  
[info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com)  
<http://brunodavidgallery.com/>  
1-314-696-2377

### EXHIBITIONS FOR MAY | JUNE 2023

Exhibition Dates: April 28 – June 17, 2023  
Opening Reception: Friday, April 28, from 6 to 8 pm  
Gallery Talk: May 24, 6 pm

**YVETTE DRURY DUBINSKY**  
*Traveling*

**ANTONIO AINSCOUGH**  
*Drawn Together*

**CARLOS SALAZAR-LERMONT**  
*Esperando A Dios (EAD) v.01*

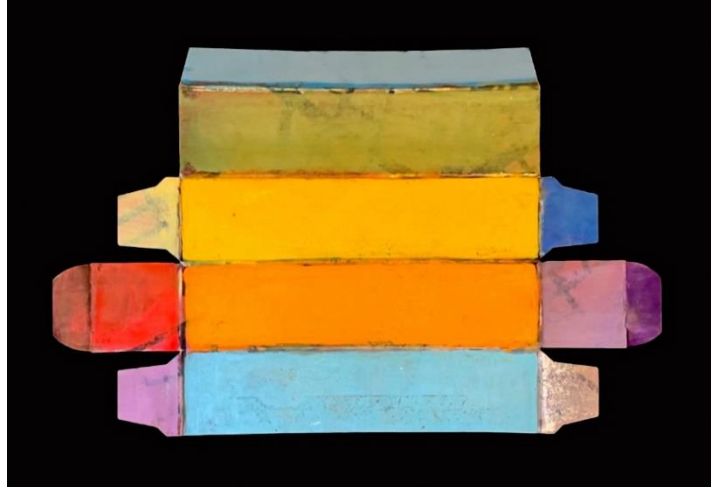
**MEE JEY**  
*In Search of Home*

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — March 27, 2023) — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to open four solo exhibitions by artists with established studio practice: St. Louis-based artist **Yvette Drury Dubinsky**, Chicago-based artist **Antonio Ainscough**, Indian-born St. Louis based artist **Mee Jey**, and video artist **Carlos Salazar-Lermont**.

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Bruno David Gallery is pleased to announce *Traveling*, an exhibition of new work in painting and printmaking by mixed media artist **Yvette Drury Dubinsky**. Meditating on change, *Traveling* is evidence of the inevitable interplay between an artist's solitary workings in the studio and those of a turmoiled outside world. This is Dubinsky's seventh solo exhibition at Bruno David Gallery. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish an exhibition catalog of the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Many works in the exhibition—including several paintings on handmade paper and repurposed medicine and art supply boxes—are small and portable, made between 2022 and 2023 at a point during and after the pandemic when travel to visit family became possible once again. Other works memorialize the rapid changes and prolonged grief of the last several years, layering words that became newly charged—sourdough and shelter—with the names of those who succumbed to the virus in the early stages of the pandemic.



While serious in subject matter, Dubinsky's work is also intuitive and playful—a metaphor for a multifaceted life. The medicine boxes, for example, while chosen for their idiosyncratic shapes when deconstructed and made supports for painting, are also a byproduct of the increased use of over-the-counter medications by an aging artist. On these informal surfaces, Dubinsky layers wildly colorful and sometimes repellent mixes of gesso, ink, pencil, crayon, and gouache, employing an experimental blend of painting, printmaking, and collaging techniques.

The largest work in this exhibition, a monotype titled *Anguish* (2022), and the latest works, *Long Way* and *In Transit* were begun to augment a series of smaller individual works already in progress when Ukraine was invaded by Russia in February 2022 and left much of the world stunned, horrified, and immobilized. Working in her studio as the violence in Eastern Europe escalated, Dubinsky found herself assembling several new works in reaction to the conflict and thinking of her mother.

A century ago, as a child, Dubinsky's mother fled war just north of what is now Ukraine, trapped for a time in the basement of an occupied house. Dubinsky recalls that her mother never fully processed the exodus or talked about her childhood, spending her later life traumatized by the violence and uprooting she had experienced. Today, working in her studio and following the news, Dubinsky feels, as she did in her youth, both captivated and powerless to ease the trauma she witnessed firsthand.

Yvette Drury Dubinsky, based in St. Louis, MO; Truro, MA; and New York, NY, earned her M.F.A. from the Sam Fox School at Washington University, where she has also twice received distinguished alumni awards. She is also a New York member of A.I.R. Gallery.

Image: Yvette Drury Dubinsky. *Tretinoin Transformed*, 2023. cyanotype, gesso, and ink on gessoed box, 12 x 18 in.

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Bruno David presents *Drawn Together*, an exhibition by Chicago-based artist **Antonio (AJ) Ainscough**. This is his first solo exhibition with the gallery. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist's work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

AJ Ainscough explores with this new exhibition, the complex and nuanced emotions of love and relationships through a diverse collection of paintings and works on paper. He focuses on exploring themes of identity, relationships, and self-discovery through the use of autobiographical characters. His cartoonish figures capture the essence of human experiences in a way that is both playful and profound, all while infusing a sense of humor and whimsy.

Love and relationships are an essential part of the human experience, and this exhibition offers a glimpse into the various forms and expressions they can take. Ainscough's new body of work incorporates themes of vulnerability, trust, and intimacy. Some works are whimsical and light-hearted, while others delve into the darker and more complicated aspects of human connection. The works evoke feelings of nostalgia, longing, or heartbreak, while others may inspire hope and optimism for the future.



Ainscough explores the dynamics of relationships, portraying the complexities through his inimitable cartoonish figures of himself and others. These new works invite you to reflect on your own experiences and emotions. Whether you are single or partnered, young or old, AJ encourages the viewer to immerse themselves into the beauty and chaos that is connection.

Antonio (AJ) Ainscough lives and works in Chicago. He received his BFA degree in Painting from Eastern Illinois University in 2020. He has exhibited in numerous group shows both across the US and internationally.

Image: Antonio Ainscough, *Letting Go*, 2023. Acrylic on canvas, 16 x 20 inches.

Bruno David presents *In Search of Home*, an exhibition by Indian-born St. Louis based artist **Mee Jey**. This will be her first solo exhibition with the gallery.

This series of new work directs our gaze towards arduous and life-threatening journeys that millions of immigrants undertake in search of a better home, often holding an image of a paradise that does not exist.

Mee Jey derives heavily from her biographical and ecological events, exploring the political, social, and philosophical understanding of 'self' and 'others' in the given socio-political scenario. Mee Jey is an artist who prefers to use repurposed materials. "When you have less resources, you become more resourceful," she states. Growing up in a large family where resources were slim, she learnt innovative use of material as a way of living. Her work is active and breathing, constantly changing, and growing. Her approach incorporates multiple disciplines that range from drawings to paintings, sculptural installations, text, and time-based media including performances.



Mee ventures out in the geographical expanse to connect with self and understand problems of others. This dialectical process of give and take manifests itself in her community-based projects and makes creative process as significant as her final forms.

Mee Jey received a M.F.A. from Sam Fox School of Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, Master's degree in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University and MPhil in Liberal Arts from Ambedkar University in Delhi, India. The artist currently resides in St. Louis, MO. Mee Jey was also honored with the St. Louis Emerging Artist Award, 2022 and the Community Arts Training Fellowship at Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish an exhibition catalog of the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Image: Mee Jey in her St. Louis studio. February 2023. Photo by Kevin A. Roberts.

Bruno David presents *Esperando A Dios (EAD) v.01*, a video work by Venezuelan-born multi-disciplinary artist **Carlos Salazar-Lermont**. This is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

*Esperando A Dios (EAD) v.01* (2022-23) is a sardonic view on the marginalization that immigrants experience in the United States. The piece was filmed when the Venezuelan artist was expecting his delayed Employment Authorization Document. At the time, the American economy was rebounding from the COVID-19 crisis. This effervescence was reflected in a sudden and unexpected surge of jobs in the United States. Unable to work legally, the artist filmed himself standing in front of multiple fast-food businesses' "now hiring" signs in St. Louis, MO, doing all that he could do about it: nothing. The images in the video move to the rhythm and melody of an electronic version of *El Norte es una Quimera*, a traditional *merengue caraqueño* song from the 1920's that speaks about the hardships of immigrating to the US. The cover of this centennial song was conceived and produced specifically for this project by Carlos Salazar-Lermont and interpreted by renowned musician Andrea Ludovic. Originally thought as a 3-channel video installation, the version displayed in Carlos Salazar-Lermont's solo show at Bruno David Gallery is a single-channel adaptation to be displayed on a large TV screen.



Carlos Salazar-Lermont received his MFA in Visual Arts from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis as a Danforth Scholar (2022); and a Dual MA in Arts Administration & Policy and Modern and Contemporary Art History in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with the support of the New Artists Society Full Tuition scholarship. Salazar-Lermont's work has been exhibited internationally in museums, institutions, and galleries in over a dozen countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, England, Finland, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States, and Venezuela. He is based in Chicago and St. Louis and is a part-time Lecturer at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

Image: Carlos Salazar-Lermont. *Esperando A Dios (EAD) v.01* (still), 2022-23. Color, sound, one-channel; 4:00 minutes.

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Yvette Drury Dubinsky, Antonio Ainscough, Mee Jey, Carlos Salazar-Lermont, and Bruno L. David are available for interviews. For images and additional information, please contact Jada Ivy, Assistant Director, at [info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com)

Bruno David Gallery

Public Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 11 – 5 pm, and by appointment

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#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Founded in 1984 in New York City, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in Saint Louis in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the most innovative artists practicing in Saint Louis, along with artists of international reputation.

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#### BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

7513 FORSYTH BOULEVARD SAINT LOUIS MO 63105 USA 1.314.696.2377  
[INFO@BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM](mailto:INFO@BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM) [WWW.BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM)