

HASHIMOTO CONTEMPORARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dinner Party (While the World Burns)

A solo exhibition by
Nicholas Bono Kennedy
November 9th - 30th, 2024

LOS ANGELES—When does a cherished object cross the line into burdensome excess? How can we attempt to enjoy our lives when the world burns around us? In his debut solo exhibition with Hashimoto Contemporary *Dinner Party (While the World Burns)*, Los Angeles-based artist

Nicholas Bono Kennedy examines the intricate relationship between beauty and burden amid a backdrop of pressing political and ecological challenges through his rich, colorful paintings. Balancing life's beautiful moments with the chaos of living, the LA-based artist fills his compositions with lush arrangements of potted plants, pet piles, and scenes of domestic life, prompting viewers to find appreciation for our lives in a world that is beautiful and tragic.



Often alluding to art historical arrangements of flowers and fruits, Bono Kennedy's rich, colorful paintings are full of life but with a sense of foreboding. The painting *Flower Van at Sunset Plaza* associates scenes of cherished memories and places amid hints of looming danger, setting a delicious meal at the artist's favorite Taiwanese restaurant against the backdrop of a derelict dollar store—a reminder of the hardships that often underscores joy. The title piece, *Dinner Party (While the World Burns)*, shows a seemingly idyllic living-room gathering as a fire blazes in the hills outside the window, encapsulating the tension between the exhilaration of being alive with the imminent reality of life's precarity.

Still, Kennedy's paintings are playful, dynamic, humorous. Several paintings feature an excess of potted plants or dogs, highlighting how too much of anything—even something meant to calm or distract—can become overwhelming, creating its own turmoil. "For this exhibition," Kennedy remarked, "I wanted to find a way to communicate the anxiety and dread many of us feel on a daily basis while still creating works that exude a playful energy." Through a delicate balance of humor, play, and existential dread, Kennedy's paintings remind us that goodness is not found in the world *despite* the anguish, but as part of our larger appreciation for life.

Dinner Party (While the World Burns) opens on November 9th with a reception from 6-8 pm and will be on view through November 30th, 2024. The artist will be in attendance. For additional information, images, or exclusive content, email LA@hashimotocontemporary.com.

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WHAT:

Dinner Party (While the World Burns)

A solo exhibition by Nicholas Bono Kennedy

WHERE:

Hashimoto Contemporary

2754 S La Cienega Blvd Suite B. Los Angeles, CA 90034

WHEN:

Opening night reception: Saturday, November 9th from 6pm - 8 pm

On view: November 9th - 30th, 2024

LINKS:

Hashimoto Contemporary: <https://www.hashimotocontemporary.com/>

Nicholas Bono Kennedy: <https://nicholasbonokennedy.com/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Nicholas Bono Kennedy is an artist and illustrator based in Los Angeles. His paintings explore the relationship of lived in environments and our ability as humans to alter and control those spaces. Inspired by every day life and what the artist observes in private and public environments. At the core of Kennedy's practice are formal concerns such as color, light and pattern, these shape the artist's densely populated scenes. Mostly, though, Kennedy simply loves painting.

ABOUT THE GALLERY:

Hashimoto Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery originally founded in 2013 by Ken Harman Hashimoto. In 2023 the gallery announced two new partners, Dasha Matsuura and Jennifer Rizzo. Our roster consists of an eclectic blend of emerging and mid-career contemporary artists working. Hashimoto Contemporary provides a platform for artists whose identities and subjects have been historically relegated to the margins, as well as artists whose practices fit neatly into the canon of art history. You can find us at the Minnesota Street Project (San Francisco), the Lower East Side (New York City) and Culver City (Los Angeles) where our three spaces organize new exhibitions monthly.