

[Svetlana](#)

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New York NY

Jankel Alter

Private Paintings

May 6 – June 4, 2016



Svetlana is pleased to present Private Paintings, an exhibition by Jankel Alter.

This show is a new direction for Jankel, who has previously exhibited as another artist with another life. In some ways, this is the story of a man turning away from his past. It's a past troubled by proclivities and appetites, circumstances which made him prey to his own biology. You'll see that in some of the work, which is a suite of new paintings made over the last two years. There's a narrative quality here: a coiling science fiction element, a density of religious introspection, a flickering of desperation.

But why bother with the romance of it? In a sense, the real protagonist of this show isn't Jankel at all. Call it a biological mechanism at play. Call it a shark swimming against a steadily warming ocean current.

If you've spent time in Berlin in the past seven or eight years, some scenes could be familiar. There is Kumpelnest around 3 or 4, then Vagabund as the sun rises. There's a Starbucks on Potsdamer Platz.

If you're in New York, the scene could also be familiar. Jankel Alter makes a case for art as a way of living rather than a way of working.