



OPERA GALLERY

Gustavo Nazareno

EXPO Chicago

24 – 26 April 2025

Booth 441

Navy Pier Festival Hall
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago IL 60611

Gustavo Nazareno

Gustavo Nazareno (b. 1994, Três Pontas, Brazil) is known for his paintings and drawings that draw together a wide range of influences from his own life, religion, spirituality and cultural interests. The selection of works seen here traverses this diverse lineage with references to Afro-Brazilian religions, European Renaissance painting, fashion photography, haute couture, fables, folklore and traditional West African clothing to name just a few.

To coincide with this presentation, a selection of rarely-seen preparatory works — ranging from drawings and sketches to scale models of figures wearing handmade miniature clothing — will be on show at The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center. On April 26, Nazareno will be in conversation with Danny Dunson, the museum’s Director of Curatorial Services and Community Partnerships for a special event titled ‘Flashing Blackness: Afro-Brazilian Art through Expressions of the Divine’.

In a recent interview with Opera Gallery Dunson described Nazareno’s oeuvre as an ever-evolving record of the many ways in which beauty reveals itself to him: often fleeting, fragile or immaterial but always striking and memorable. “I see through lines that unite European Renaissance Vanitas paintings, Mapplethorpe’s photography and Gustavo’s work. They’re all documents; forms of testimony to the beauty of life that will live on long after the artist’s death,” he said.

In this presentation, such forms of testimony take the shape of a cast of symbolic animals, the figures of Orixas, the minor deities worshipped within a number of Afro-Brazilian religions and elliptical charcoal drawings of moonlight, flowers and migrating birds. None of these images appear by chance; Nazareno’s work is the outcome of a meticulous process of research, writing, drawing and imagining. Diverse as they are, each symbolic subject is an important part of the artist’s specific, esoteric image-world.

Across such a wide gamut of inspirations, the motivation behind these paintings and drawings remains the same. Nazareno draws our attention to the ways in which visual culture can transcend histories and geographies, bringing together disparate reference points to create a world where each element exists in harmony.



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Ogun
2025

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse

59.1 x 39.4 in | 150 x 100 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



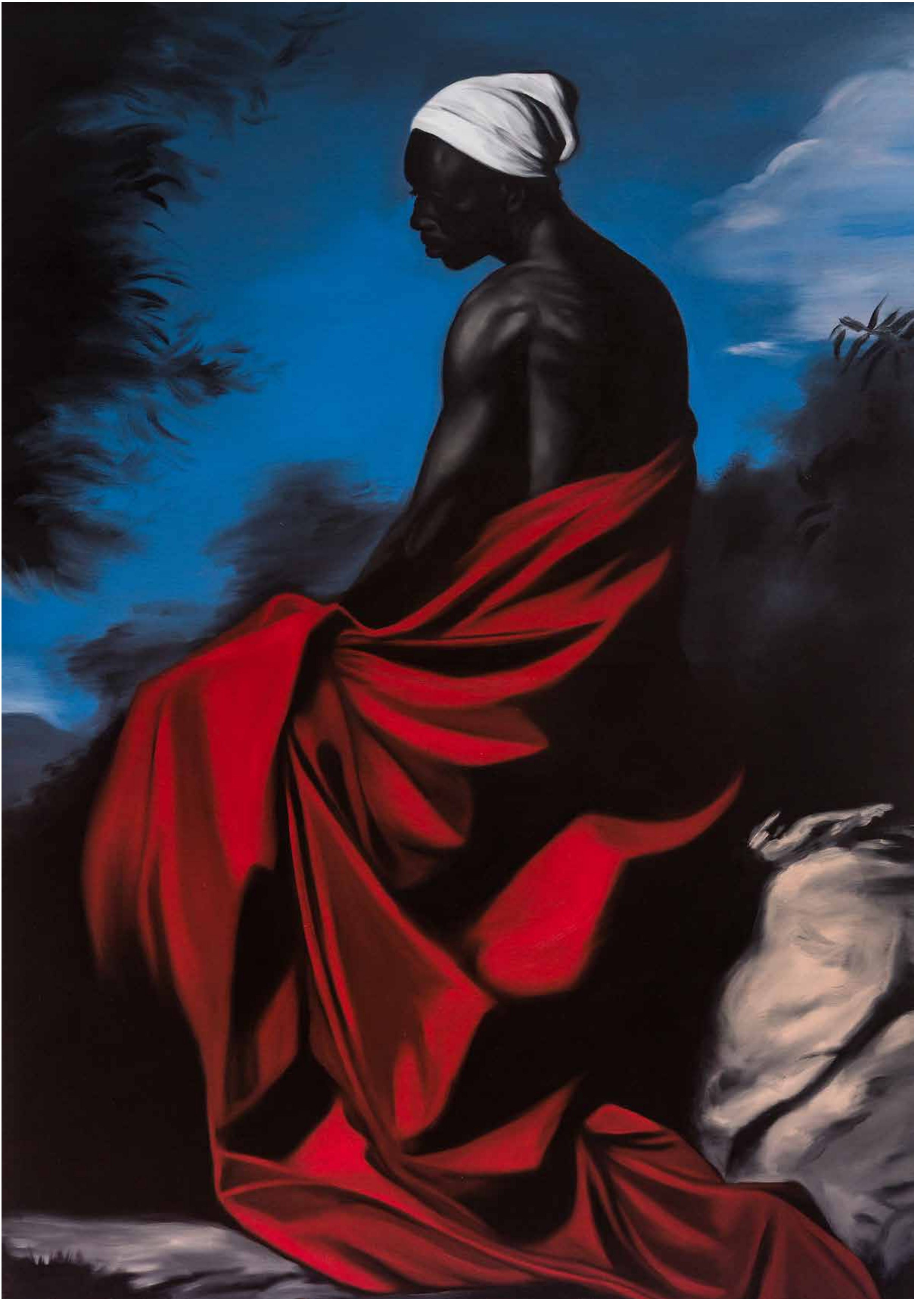
**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Padilha
2025

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse

66.9 x 78.7 in | 170 x 200 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Eshu
2025
Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse
53.1 x 37.4 in | 135 x 95 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Assistant 1
2025

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Assistant 2
2025

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Revelation
2025
Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse
19.7 x 19.7 in | 50 x 50 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Bridge
2025
Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse
19.7 x 19.7 in | 50 x 50 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

A Guide for a Passage
2025
Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse
19.7 x 19.7 in | 50 x 50 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

The first standing soul
2025
Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse
19.7 x 19.7 in | 50 x 50 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Passion
2025

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2025' on the reverse

19.7 x 19.7 in | 50 x 50 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Tormento de Iku
2023

Oil on linen
Signed and dated 'GUSN 2023' on the reverse

78.7 x 98.4 in | 200 x 250 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 55
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 76
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 77
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 79
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



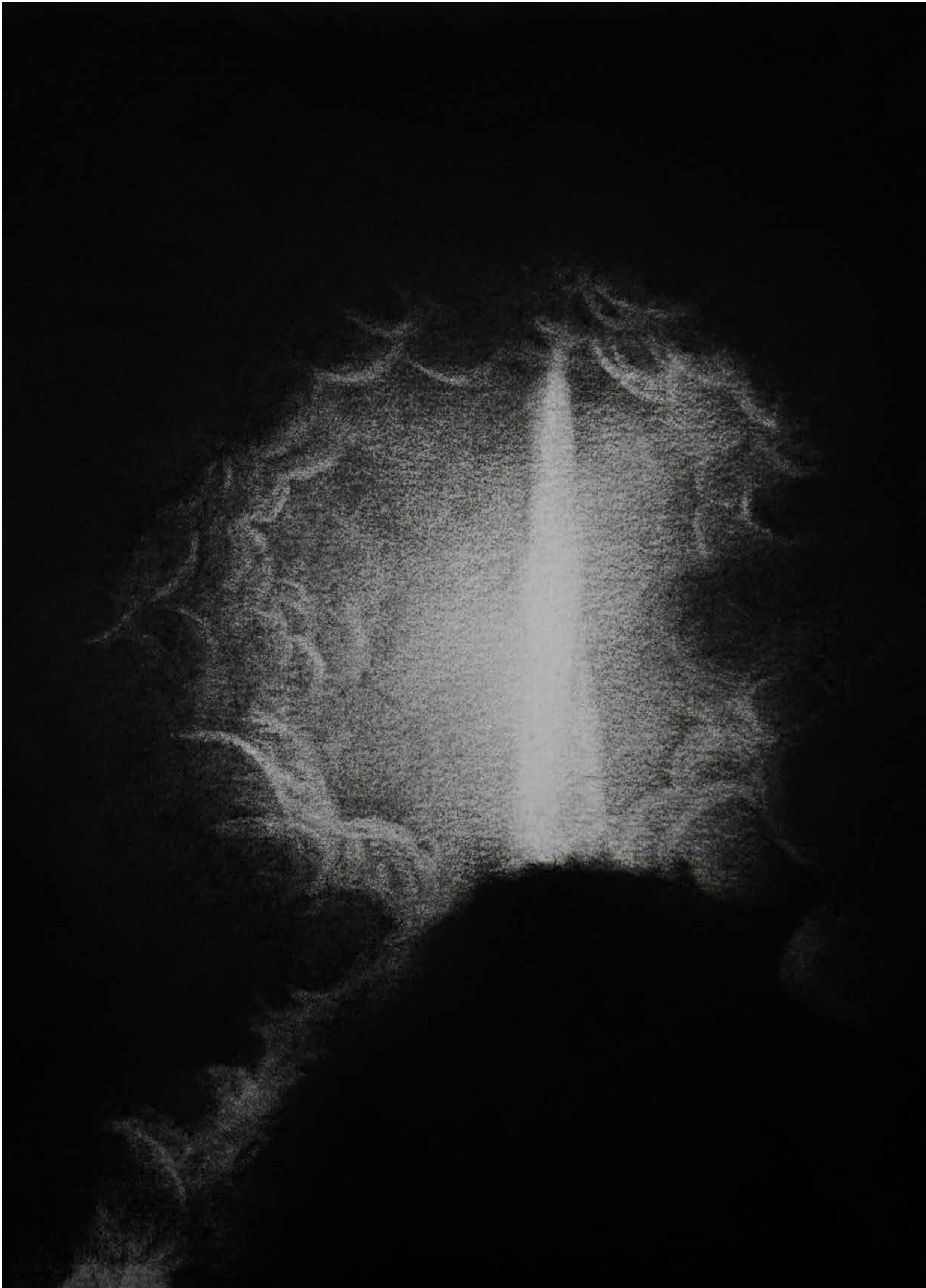
**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 83
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 84
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 90
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 97
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 99
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Gustavo
Nazareno**
b. 1994

Iku 101
2023

Charcoal on paper

15.7 x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio

OPERA GALLERY

Opera Gallery at EXPO Chicago

24 – 27 April 2025

Booth 441

Navy Pier Festival Hall

600 E Grand Ave, Chicago IL 60611

Opening Night

Thursday 24 April, 5 – 8pm

General Admission

Friday 25 April, 11am – 7pm

Saturday 26 April, 11am – 7pm

Sunday 27 April, 11am – 6pm

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Artwork photography

Oil on canvas artwork photography © Estudio em obra

Charcoal on paper artwork photography © Filipe Berndt