Volker Hüller
Angelus Novus

September 9 - October 31, 2026
GRIMM, 54 White Street, New York, NY (US)

Volker Hüller | *Fallen 2*, 2026

GRIMM is pleased to present *Angelus Novus*, a solo exhibition of new works by German-born, Brooklyn-based artist Volker Hüller (b. 1976) at the New York gallery from September 9 through October 31, 2026. This is the artist's third solo exhibition at the gallery's New York location.

Angelus Novus is Hüller's first exhibition focusing purely on figuration, in a career that has encompassed both abstraction and figuration across painting, collage, etching, drawing and sculpture. New small formats are combined with large scale canvases in which a number of motifs recur throughout the paintings presented in *Angelus Novus*, each of which starts as a drawing that may have as its referent a specific place or moment that is then allowed to drift: A toppled stone torso appears across a number of the works, often subject to various onlookers that engage with the stone fragment in different ways.

The same helpless, recumbent fragmented figure from the torso also appears as a merman, curiously washed up on the seashore and gazed at mockingly by a crowd of figures. The fragment of figurative stone, strewn across the ground, becomes a stand-in for a fallen empire and the end of a political system, both from the time of its conception and for the present day, and thereby alluding to the possibility for change.

Often Hüller's scenes take place within an indeterminate space that, like the stone sculptures, are drawn from antiquity – Roman columns sit in the foreground, with arched passageways towards the back. Figures are woven into the environment creating an interplay between the subjects and the features of the worlds they inhabit. There is often a sense of desolation to both figure and ground, yet imbued with a sense that the disconnection between these individuals and society can only lead to a desire to find something real.

Throughout, Hüller's figures are presented in different states and with intentions that veer from the menacing to the despondent. Pilgrims prostrate themselves at the altarpiece of a church, their torsos sprawled across the step, while in another work a group of men are seen to be taking care of a reclining man, it remaining unclear whether he is sick, drunk or even alive.

The exhibition takes its title from *Angelus Novus*, Paul Klee's celebrated painting, but its conceptual framework is drawn more directly from Walter Benjamin's influential reading of the work. In his essay *On the Concept of History*, Benjamin imagines Klee's angel as the "angel of history": a figure facing the accumulating wreckage of the past while being propelled inexorably toward the future by the storm of progress. It is this tension between memory, catastrophe, and historical movement that informs the exhibition.

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press@grimmgallery.com +1 (212) 280-3877

54 White Street
New York 10013
United States

Leidsegracht 38-40
1016 CM Amsterdam
The Netherlands

43a Duke Street, St James's
London SW1Y 6DD
United Kingdom

Tel +1 (212) 280 3877
info@grimmgallery.com
www.grimmgallery.com

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The scenes presented in *Angelus Novus* are inherently social, existing in a world where the drive towards figuration has imbued each moment with a sense of narrative than unfolds itself across each canvas.

About the artist

Volker Hüller (b. 1976 in Forchheim, DE) currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY (US). He studied under the late Norbert Schwontkowski (1949-2013) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg (DE), graduating in 2008.

Selected exhibitions include *Afterparty*, GRIMM, London (UK); *L.I.T.S.*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US); *Wasteland*, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg (DE); *Birds*, Van Doren Waxter, New York, NY (US); *Bon Voyage*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Paradise Inn*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US); *Tonics*, Van Doren Waxter, New York, (US); *Volley*, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg (DE); *L.I.T.S. Homo Naledi,* GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Volker Hüller,* 11R Gallery, New York, NY (US); *Volker Hüller,* Timothy Taylor, London (UK); *Volker Hüller,* curated by Anna-Catherina Gebbers, Salon 94, New York, NY (US). Hüller has participated in group exhibitions at the following venues: GRIMM, New York, NY (US); Museum Weserburg für Moderne Kunst, Bremen (DE); Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort (NL); Saatchi Gallery, London (UK); and the Falckenberg Collection, Hamburg (DE).

Hüller's work is included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (US); The Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX (US); Saatchi Gallery, London (UK) and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IL), among others.

Volker Hüller, 2024 | Photo by Tom Carter

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