RYAN SULLIVAN

Accidentals November 5, 2026 – January 30, 2027

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce *Accidentals,* Ryan Sullivan's first solo exhibition in Germany. It includes new paintings, sculptures, and the artist's first video work.

In birding, an accidental is a species seen far outside its usual migratory range. In music, it is a sharp or flat outside a piece's key that adds color. Sullivan's work makes similar use of the unexpected. He sets chance in motion, then chooses what to keep.

Resin has been central to Sullivan's practice for about ten years. The material sets quickly, so a passing gesture or drip is held as solid form. It carries color across a wide range, from translucent tones to bright, opaque ones that recall screens or glossy print.

For most of that decade, Sullivan built his paintings face-down in rectilinear molds, leaving their surfaces flat and glassy. The new paintings are made face-up, and the resin dries in ridges and pools across their fronts, forming reflective, topographic surfaces. The change came as Sullivan began making sculptures. In a text earlier this year, the writer Felix Bernstein called the cast paintings "flat sculpture," and the sculptures "paintings in the drag of sculpture."

The exhibition also includes a three-minute video, shot at the artist's home in New York.

Ryan Sullivan (b. 1983) lives and works in New York. His first solo exhibition at the gallery took place in 2025 as part of Zweigstelle Capitain VII in Naples.

Sullivan has participated in numerous institutional exhibitions, including The Drawing Center, New York (2025); Ueshima Museum, Tokyo (2025); WHAT Museum, Tokyo (2024); Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Miami (2024); Le Consortium, Dijon (2024); Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2022); High Line, New York (2019); GAMeC, Bergamo (2018); Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles (2018); ICA Miami (2015, solo exhibition); Kunstmuseum Bonn (2015); Aïshti Foundation, Beirut (2015); The FLAG Art Foundation, New York (2015); Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York (2013); and MoMA PS1, New York (2010), among many others.

His work is held in numerous public collections, including Aïshti Foundation, Beirut; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; The Art Collection of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles; Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence; Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas; Rubell Museum, Miami; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; and Ueshima Collection, Tokyo.