

RICHARD
TAITTINGER
GALLERY

OPENING:
THURS, AUG. 19TH 6-9 PM

IM TOO YOUNG
TO NOT SET MY
LIFE ON FIRE

Timothy Goodman

AUG 19 - SEPT 12, 2021
154 LUDLOW ST.
NY, NY 10002



Life is..., 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 60 in. (121.9 x 152.4 cm.)

RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY is pleased to announce the US representation of **Timothy Goodman** and to present his first solo exhibition in New York City, *Too Young To Not Set My Life On Fire*. This exhibition confronts Goodman's exploration of vulnerability and masculinity. It champions unapologetically seeking love, even when that comes with the risk of being hurt. Goodman uses his works to expose his joys and hopes as well as his scars and warts.

Born in 1982 in Cleveland, Ohio, Timothy Goodman is best known for his public murals and for his collaboration with renowned partners such as MoMA, Netflix, *The New York Times*, Tiffany & Co. and the Kevin Durant Foundation. Goodman was also co-creator of the *40 Days of Dating* project with Jessica Welsh, which has been optioned to Warner Brothers. Goodman connects with his audience directly through active social media presences including nearly 200,000 Instagram followers. Creativity, vulnerability, and experimentation pervade each of Goodman's projects and his approach to life and art.

For Goodman, publicly exhibiting the work in *Too Young To Not Set My Life On Fire* is a form of activism, a call to viewers to engage with their own vulnerability, and to explore it in the context

of societal expectations and limitations. This exhibition is intended to create an immersive experience of joy and love for the viewer and is intended to connect people in both large and small ways. Being vulnerable and open to love and joy is often paired with fear, fear of rejection, heartbreak, or disappointment. Goodman is encouraging his viewers to pursue joy, love, passion and vulnerability with reckless abandon. The exhibition is a culmination and a reckoning with Goodman's own personal experience, mistakes, encounters and growth, which is channeled through his artistic process and informs the body of work.

Coming from a street art, design, and typography background, Goodman's process is spontaneous and improvisational: "*I impro-*



Timothy Goodman

Too Young To Not Set My Life On Fire, 2021,
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 in. (76.2 x 101.6 cm.)



NYC Everywhere, 2021, Oil based paint marker on canvas,
48 x 60 in. (121.9 x 152.4 cm.)

vise and freestyle similar to a trumpet player playing jazz. I know all the notes I need to hit, I just don't what kind of journey I'm going to take to get there. The process is the stimulating and revealing part." His works embody the joy of his process. Creating street art often requires speed as the artist must create the work and move on without being interrupted or apprehended. A gallery show offers more time and space to curate a more comprehensive experience. Each piece is its own celebration and in the context of this exhibition

each contributes to the larger narrative of offering and receiving love, community and joy.

Goodman's connection to street art and his use of New York City as a central theme in his work renders his inaugural solo show *Too Young To Not Set My Life On Fire* significant, specifically located at 154 Ludlow Street in the heart of the Lower East Side, not far from Haring's original mural locations and the epicenter of the street art activity of the 1970s.

This exhibition features forty-two canvases in Goodman's signature style. *80s Kid* shows the clear influence of Keith Haring. Both Haring and Goodman let the streets of New York City be their canvas. Their works are intended to connect to the city and community, bringing brief moments of happiness to New Yorkers as they move around the city. Goodman's use of conceptual text follows in the vein of Barbara Kruger and other conceptual artists. Goodman's pieces like *Caring About People is Dope as Hell* and *Best Thing I Ever Did Was Love You* and *Let You Love Me* are direct instructions to the viewer to embrace love and community. Timothy uses his work to literally tell stories. *Memories of a Girl I Never Knew* series tells 12 short personal stories about making mistakes, looking for love, and being hopeful. Each is a brief vignette unto itself, but they are arranged from left to right to take the viewer on a journey through the hopeful and sometimes difficult journey of devotion, desire, infatuation and love.

Too Young To Not Set My Life On Fire is on view at 154 Ludlow Street through Sept. 12, 2021.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Timothy Goodman (b. 1982, Cleveland, OH) is a New York based artist who is best known for his large text-based murals and characteristic line work that has adorned buildings, packaging, cars, people, shoes, clothing, books, and magazines all over the world. He has partnered with organizations such as MoMA, Netflix, Uniqlo, Tiffany & Co., *The New York Times*, and the Kevin Durant Foundation. Goodman is also the author of two books and the co-creator of the popular *40 Days of Dating* project. His work is usually centered on topics around mental health, therapy, manhood, race, politics, New York City, heartbreak and love.

