

TURLEY GALLERY

The Drawing Room

Jan Simonds

indignity

October 7–October 29, 2023

Opening reception, Saturday, October 7, 3–5 PM



Jan Simonds, *Patrilineage*, 2023, ink, gouache, pencil, and colored pencil on paper,
oil on hand-carved plywood, 12.5 x 17 x 1.5 inches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan Simonds in his first solo exhibition with Turley Gallery presents *indignity*. Working for over a year on this new body of work, Simonds explores the notion of forgiveness, family, and letting go. The work is strong and elegant. Quietly demanding of your attention.

TURLEY GALLERY



Jan Simonds, *Languish Fever*, 2023, ink, gouache, pencil, and colored pencil
on paper, oil on hand-carved plywood, 20.5 x 15 x 1.5 inches

Jan Simonds

The reverberating effect of my grandmother's passing in September of 2021 caused me to take a personal inventory of my practice. I was born in America and spent my childhood and teenage summers with loving family in Slovakia, a culture ever-presently Catholic pressuring me to intercept my homosexuality. For the past year and a half, I limited my time on social media to purge my hesitation from what became imperative, letting go of intense self-imposed fear and exerting pent-up energy. Compelled by the empathy and care they have shown my whole life, the resulting body of work details a distilled, layered forgiveness.

Over each drawing are fluctuating crosses, interrupting subjects like wrought-iron fences. The imagery, including porn actors kissing, a family pet, and a close-up of plastic cemetery trash, fight for harmony.

TURLEY GALLERY

As one object, they reflect an amalgam of Slovak towns: Brutalist, Folk, Romanesque, and Gothic architecture that underscores daily life. The carved channels in each frame invoke the radiance I felt opening up and sought to render. They are hand-made of plywood, cut with a saw and chisels, and I sand the paper repeatedly. These physical processes with utilitarian tools bypass my tendency to overthink, allowing subconscious honesty to take charge.

Jan Simonds (b. 1997) is an interdisciplinary artist who concentrates his practice on drawing, painting, and woodworking. His work has been featured in group exhibitions at Sulk, Heaven Gallery, and The Latent Space. He received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2021. Simonds lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

Upcoming Events at Turley Gallery

- **Saturday, October 7, 2023** | Opening reception for *Care & indignity*, 3–5 PM
 - **Saturday, October 14–Sunday, October 15, 2023** | Two Coats of Paint Hudson Valley Gallery Crawl; Saturday 12–8 PM, Sunday 12–5 PM
 - **Sunday, October 15, 2023** | Artist-led exhibition walkthrough with Dana Piazza and Tamara Zahaykevich, 2 PM
 - **Saturday, October 21, 2023** | Artist discussion with Dana Piazza, Tamara Zahaykevich, and Jan Simonds, 3 PM
-

Turley Gallery is open Friday–Sunday, 12–5 PM, and by appointment.

For press and sales inquiries, please email info@turley.gallery.

Please visit www.turley.gallery and follow us [@turleygallery](https://www.instagram.com/turleygallery) for more information.