

Dialogues Sam Gunsar

January 9 - February 29, 2020

Opening Winter Mini **ARTcrawl**: Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5PM

Curators: Phil Vanderwall, Michaela Lucio

Design: Donna Nolan

Photocredits: Mike Blazek

List of works

Mate, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

Rue, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

Free, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

Hug, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

Shun, 2019; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

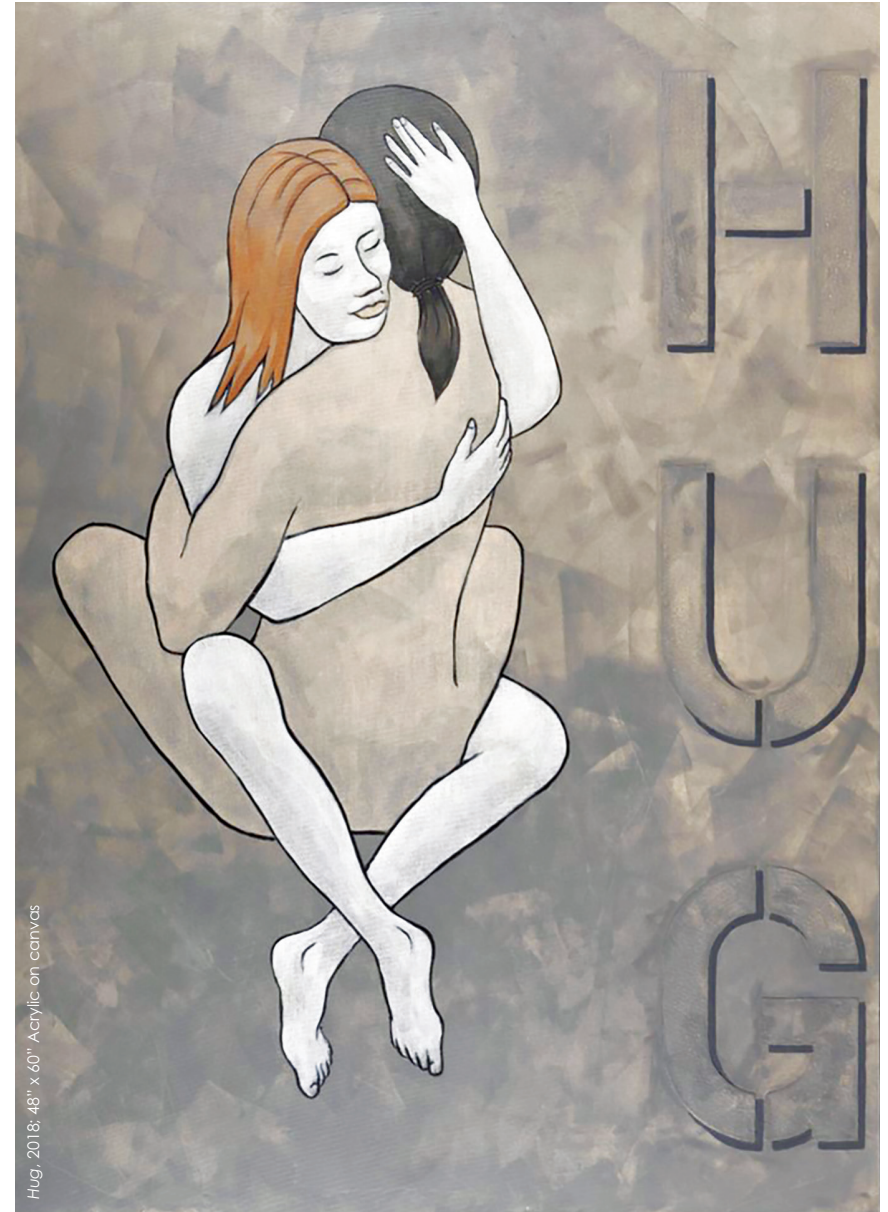
Itch, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas

ARTspace

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www.artspacechathamkent.com



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Dialogues Sam Gunsar

Sam Gunsar was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He was raised as an Orthodox Christian while living in a Muslim country and attending a Jewish School. Since then, his travels have taken him from Turkey to the UK, on to Montreal, London and now Chatham, Ontario. Listening to Gunsar speak, it is easy to imagine that the diversity of cultures in which he has lived served to ignite his interest in the complexities of communication – its codes and its mysteries, its pleasures and its pains.

In this series of work, Gunsar limits himself to three elements: a nude figure, an object or two, and a single word. At times these elements seem to work together, suggesting a narrative and inviting us to read the visual queues in a way that engages our empathy and our curiosity. At other times, however, the prompts appear to work against one another as the playfulness of these narrative threads harden into mores or dissolve into incongruity. As the title of the exhibition suggests, "Dialogues" is a series of paintings in which meaning appears easily accessible in one moment and filled with potential misreading in another. Viewers are invited to take up this dialogue with the work and play their part, to accept the narratives illustrated, or to dig deeper into their responses, to imagine other possibilities, or deny them.

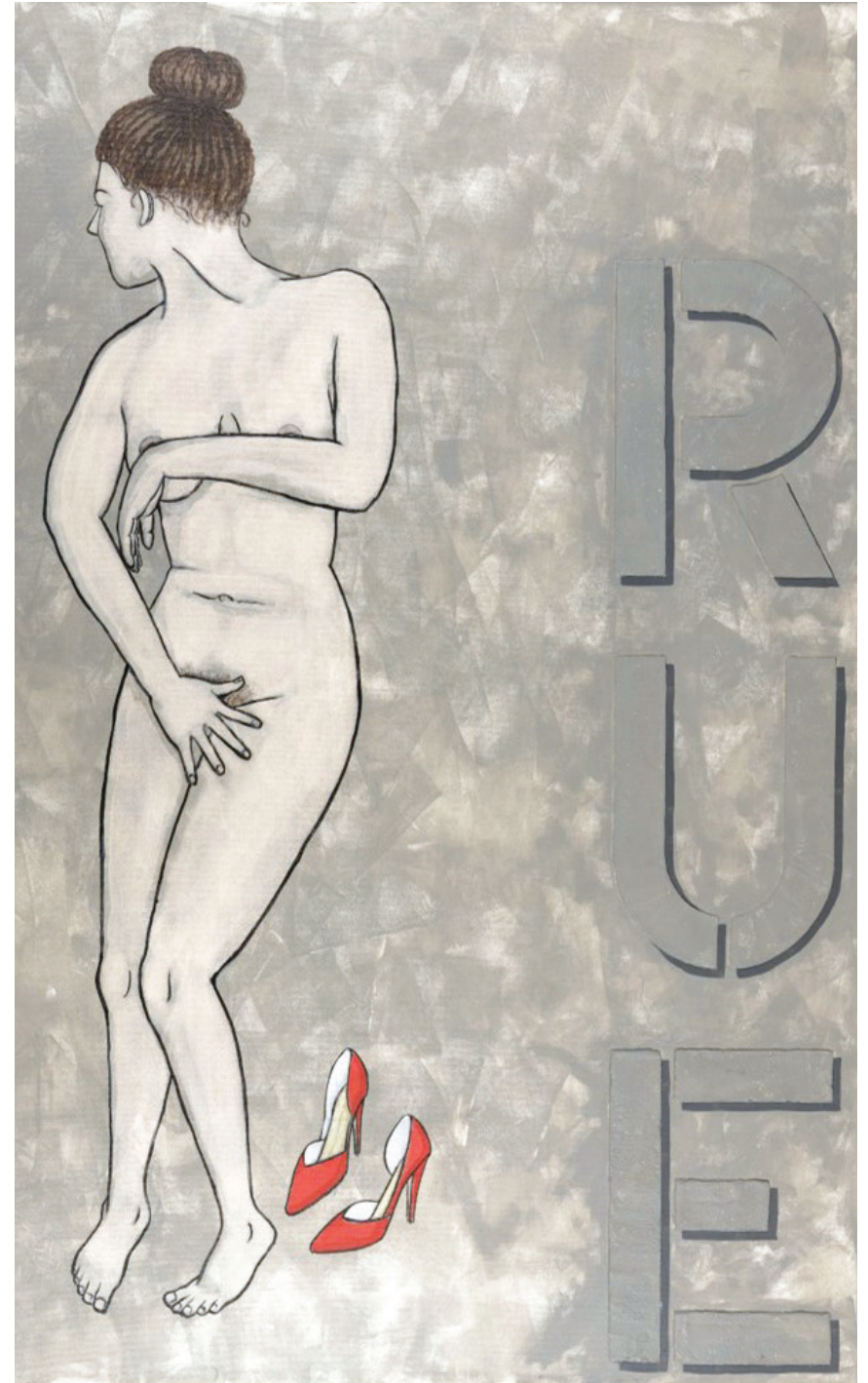
However we may experience the implications set out in each canvas, in this body of work the artist shows us a symbolic and code-based representation of communication and its failures, confronting the spaces between the language the artist adopts and our reading of the work presented. Ultimately, we are left with a sense of how vulnerable communication can be and how human it is that we should continue to search it out.



Shun, 2019; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas



Free, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas



Rue, 2018; 48" x 60" Acrylic on canvas