

**Amer Kobaslija**  
*In Passing*

December 9 – January 29, 2022

We are pleased to announce “In Passing,” Amer Kobaslija’s eighth solo exhibition with the gallery since 2006. The exhibition, featuring paintings ranging in scale from three inches to seven feet, expands on his series first shown at the gallery in 2019, of intimate portraits set in the landscape of Central Florida. These new paintings, dating from the past year and a half, reflect a shift in Kobaslija’s perspective stemming from his experience under lockdown. In many cases, the central figures have been replaced: by scarecrows, costumed trick-or-treaters, circus and street performers and even his daughter’s toys.

Many of these images derive from Kobaslija’s impression of scenes he witnessed while driving through his neighborhood in Jacksonville, or to and from Orlando. Rather than the allegorical intensity of the earlier portraits, these paintings have a level of ambiguity, a reflection of these fleeting encounters, or are an amalgamation of successive viewings. In one sense these are an anthology of character studies, cataloguing the street-scape and its inhabitants. His subjects range from concretely human to unexpectedly anthropomorphic, yet more often the two are conflated. Scarecrows in particular are a recurring theme: they appear on lawns and in empty lots as jolly seasonal decorations or more foreboding deterrents. In ‘Pumpkin Heads’ (2021), one could be forgiven for mistaking two young girls as scarecrows themselves, until realizing their arms and hands are flesh, not straw.

The isolation and upheavals of the past eighteen months have pushed Kobaslija to “[engage] in a conversation with the self and society.” In the earliest works in the exhibition, his daughter’s toys are posed on the windowsill of his studio, the glass behind them a transparent barrier to the distant city outside. Enlarged to human proportions, as in ‘Still Life with Nails and Fly’ (2021), they become both humorous and grotesque, their plastic features overwhelmed by the complexity of the paint. These ‘Still Life’ paintings, though in one sense academic in nature, in the context of the pandemic are transformed into commentary on our vulnerability. Similarly, while not inherently political, works such as ‘Ventriloquist, Alafaya Road,’ ‘Dancing Elephant,’ and ‘Street Musicians’ (all 2020) inevitably call to mind a circus-like atmosphere, though perhaps of the media sort.

Kobaslija’s paintings have always been grounded in observation. He considers the act of painting an intense, visual exploration of the spaces and places he inhabits, noting that he tries “to memorize” the scene as much as he can. Indeed, one of the most striking features of these paintings is the imagined landscape, an endlessly receding vision of the Florida flatlands, which constitute much of the state. Through his use of a skewed perspective - the subject looms large while the background falls away - he creates an expansive yet sparsely populated environment. Scale is also a major aspect of how Kobaslija works, both in the foregrounding of his subjects and the physical scale of the paintings themselves. Considering the richness and energy in his brushwork, the size of the painting also dictates the volume of detail he can pack into every stroke. Beginning with the smallest studies, up to the large canvases, as he develops each image, their complexity grows, building out the verisimilitude of the scene.

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**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Holiday Season, Kissimmee, 2021*  
Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets  
63 x 55 inches

AKop 306



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Drying Line, 2020*  
Oil on aluminum  
18 x 15 inches

AKop 294



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Vinyl Doll, 2020*  
Oil on aluminum  
18 x 15 inches

AKop 316



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Scarecrow with Ducks, 2021*  
Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets  
81 x 61 inches

AKop 308



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Trick or Treat*, 2020  
Oil on aluminum  
18 x 15 1/8 inches

AKop 302



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Yellow Dress*, 2020  
Oil on aluminum  
15 x 17 inches

AKop 319



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Suburbia, Blue Skies*, 2021  
Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets  
60 x 70 inches

AKop 311



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Pumpkin Heads*, 2021  
Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets  
71 x 60 inches

AKop 307



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Juggler, Lake Eola*, 2020  
Oil on aluminum  
21 x 15 inches

AKop 320



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Dancing Elephant*, 2020  
Oil on aluminum  
17 x 15 inches

AKop 314



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Ventriloquist, Alafaya Road, 2020*

Oil on aluminum

17 x 15 inches

AKop 315



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Bride, Lake Eustis, 2020*

Oil on aluminum

15 x 18 inches

AKop 321



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Street Musicians, 2020*

Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets

77 x 65 inches

AKop 303



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Man with Dog, 2020*

Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets

80 x 66 inches

AKop 304



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Pinocchio, Yellow Skies, 2020*

Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets

77 x 66 inches

AKop 305



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Suburban Landscape, Peeing Dog, 2021*

Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets

56 x 65 inches

AKop 310



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Still Life with Nails and Fly*, 2021

Oil on unstretched canvas with grommets

75 x 66 inches

AKop 309



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Window View*, 2020

Oil on plexiglass

4 x 3 1/2 inches

AKop 323



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Vinyl Doll*, 2020

Oil on plexiglass

4 x 3 1/4 inches

AKop 322



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Halloween Swing*, 2020

Oil on plexiglass

4 x 3 1/4 inches

AKop 330



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Still Life with Nails and Fly*, 2020

Oil on plexiglass

4 x 3 1/2 inches

AKop 333



**Amer Kobaslija**

*Still Life, Storm Passing*, 2020

Oil on plexiglass

4 x 3 1/2 inches

AKop 324



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Pumpkin Heads*, 2020  
Oil on plexiglass  
4 x 3 1/2 inches

AKop 326



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Training Grounds, Orlando*, 2020  
Oil on plexiglass  
4 x 3 5/8 inches

AKop 331



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Scarecrow with Ducks*, 2020  
Oil on plexiglass  
4 x 3 inches

AKop 325



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Suburban Landscape, Peeing Dog*, 2020  
Oil on plexiglass  
4 x 3 1/2 inches

AKop 329



**Amer Kobaslija**  
*Pinocchio, Yellow Skies*, 2020  
Oil on plexiglass  
4 x 3 1/4 inches

AKop 327