



Lior Modan, *Lighting and Unlighting*, 2026, foam, wood, plastic, cardboard, sand, epoxy putty in cast rubber frame, 40 x 40 inches (101 x 101 cm). Courtesy of the artist and HESSE FLATOW, New York.

Lior Modan: *Bread and Magic*

March 20 - April 18, 2026

HESSE FLATOW is pleased to announce the opening of *Bread and Magic*, an exhibition by New York-based artist Lior Modan, marking his first-solo presentation with the gallery.

Known for his low-relief, velvet encased paintings that reimagine household objects into uncanny still lifes, Modan approaches image-making through a sculptural lens, foregrounding its material and tactile qualities. Building his surfaces out of traditional materials such as foam, plaster, cardboard, and wood, his forms undergo a compression once enshrined in velvet, before precipitating back into view through embossed detailing and highlights. This slippage between figuration and abstraction, combined with the textile's light reflecting and absorbing properties, creates a sense of movement that can be best described as holographic, ever-elusive and shifting relative to the viewer's position around the work.

The pretense of a stage set or the sleight of a magic trick casts a quiet theatricality across the works in *Bread and Magic*. Consumed only through the eye, any sense of touch or physical truth must be conjured through belief and imagination. Within this suspended space, Modan explores the fragility of images, testing how they toggle and transform. A mobile constructed from playing cards and slices of bread suspends like a chandelier in *Lighting and Unlighting*. Its golden fibers glisten and scintillate as if turning a light switch on and off. Here, bread - an emblem of sustenance and necessity - is placed alongside playing cards symbolizing chance and fate. Their shared forms hint at an uneasy interchangeability - at one moment, they synchronize; at the next, they scatter - the image shifting between certainty and illusion.

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Lior Modan's (b. 1983, Tel Aviv) practice exists in constant slippage between distinct territories: painting and object, image and form, mundane and surreal. Modan received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University's Sculpture + Extended Media program (2013). His work has been exhibited in venues domestically and abroad. Recent solo exhibitions were held at Dinner Gallery, New York (2025), CPM, Baltimore (2024), Make Room, Los Angeles (2021), Triumph, Chicago (2017), Golconda Gallery, Tel Aviv (2016), and NURTUREart, New York (2015). Selected group exhibitions include the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Marinaro Gallery, New York, Peana Projects, Mexico, F2T Gallery, Milan, Italy; Harkawik Gallery, Los Angeles, Coustof Waxman Gallery, New York, WOAW Gallery, Hong Kong, and Haifa Museum, among others. His work was featured in various newspapers and magazines, such as *The Observer*, *Architectural Digest*, *Timeout*, *Modern China*, *Hyperallergic*, *Wallpaper Magazine*, and *New City Arts*. He lives and works in Queens, New York.

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HESSE FLATOW is a gallery and curatorial platform founded by artist Karen Hesse Flatow in 2019. It had its start as "Crush Curatorial", where many artists we work with today had their debut solo show. Hesse Flatow has an MBA and an MFA from Columbia University and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. The program focuses on emerging and mid-career artists with diverse voices, presenting debut solo shows and focused presentations. We are located in an accessible ground floor space in Tribeca, New York City.