## Franz Kaka

## Katie Lyle & Michael Thompson

NADA New York 2025

Katie Lyle (b. 1982, Victoria, Canada; lives and works in Toronto, Canada) received an MFA from the University of Victoria (2009) and a BFA from Concordia University, Montréal (2005). Selected presentations include Franz Kaka, Toronto; NADA House, Governors Island, New York presented by Franz Kaka; The School of Art Gallery at the University of Manitoba; La Datcha, Berlin; Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto; Erin Stump Projects, Toronto; Daniel Faria Gallery, Toronto; Projet Pangée, Montreal; The MacIntosh Gallery, London, ON; 67 Steps, Los Angeles; Oakville Galleries; the Nanaimo Art Gallery. Lyle has worked collaboratively with Toronto-based dancer Shelby Wright since 2014. Selected presentations of their co-authored work include: Toronto Biennale, SummerWorks Festival, and Canadian Art Foundation.

**Michael Thompson** (b. 1997, London, Canada; lives and works in Toronto, Canada). Thompson's paintings connect the evolution of the image — from early darkroom photography through contemporary digital imaging — to the shifting labour conditions across the 20th and 21st century. Rooted in Thompson's experience at Ford Motor Company where his father and two grandfathers worked before him, he paints from found images wrought with a nostalgic yearning for the handmade and the aesthetics of manual labour more broadly. Thompson positions this nostalgia as an ever-present condition of the alienated worker, now further disconnected from their efforts through the increasing implementation of automation and artificial intelligence in the workplace. Working within a compositional structure that often references the filmstrip, Thompson explores imagistic analogues for the shifting conditions of the image in modernity, a focus which has seen the artist reference iconic American imagery of the Space Race and the figure of Elvis Presley. Thompson's painted subjects are fractured and stuck between images of a recent past that can never be relived and the inexhaustible drive toward efficient, productive workplaces aided by the latest technologies.

In 2019, Thompson completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at Western University and became a resident artist at the Slade School of Fine Art in partnership with Camden Art Centre (London). In 2022, he received a Master of Fine Art from the University of Guelph. The artist has been included in exhibitions in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. His first solo exhibition, *Chorus Coda*, opened at Franz Kaka (Toronto) in 2023. Thompson is included in *Greater Toronto Art 2024* at MOCA, Toronto, the artist's first institutional presentation.