

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gitler & _____

Presents Itamar Freed: *Birds of Paradise*

March 3 – March 30, 2015

Opening reception: Tuesday, March 3, 6-9 PM



A Young Woman and a Peacock, 2013; Inkjet print on archival paper, 110 x 165 cm (detail)

(February 10, 2015) Gitler & _____ is proud to present *Birds of Paradise* from Israeli photographer Itamar Freed. Comprising six recent photographs, Freed joins live models with taxidermied birds and situates the distinct pairings in natural settings. *Birds of Paradise* was previously exhibited at Feinberg Projects gallery in Tel Aviv (Sept 4 – Oct 18, 2014), which also marked Freed's very first solo show. The show will open on Tuesday evening, March 3 at 6:00 PM. The artist will be present.

Freed lends his photographic portraits a sculptural effect, in which form, color, and stillness all play off one another, assisted by the presence of calcified birds and undisturbed nature. His palettes are filled with muted contrasts of warm and cool; the red and verdant touches in each scene set off the artist's tranquil subjects. Freed stages each fantastical portrait as a world unto its own, not unlike the garden scenes of Watteau or Manet, in which flesh and foliage work together to tell the story of an intimate bond.

Photography's ability to capture and immortalize its subjects is a worthy consideration here. Freed's nude models often resemble any number of Olympian gods and goddesses, whether they represent the forest, the grove, the flowers, or carry with them their sacred bird. *Birds of Paradise* is both mythology ode to nature, captured by an artist's lens that doesn't shy from closing in on its subjects and centering on the melancholy notes that populate each portrait and each landscape.

Gitler & _____ is an art gallery dedicated to showcasing rising artists from around the world. Founded and curated by Elliot Avi Gitler, Gitler & _____ seeks out talent through chance and word-of-mouth, moving in between genres to identify original craftsmen and visionaries who may not otherwise be brought to market. Formerly a pop-up gallery that held various solo and group shows throughout NYC and beyond, Gitler premiered its permanent Harlem location in September 2014. For more info visit www.gitlerand.com.

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Contact:
Elliot Avi Gitler
3629 Broadway
NYC 10031
eag@gitlerand.com
(201) 887-4764

www.gitlerand.com