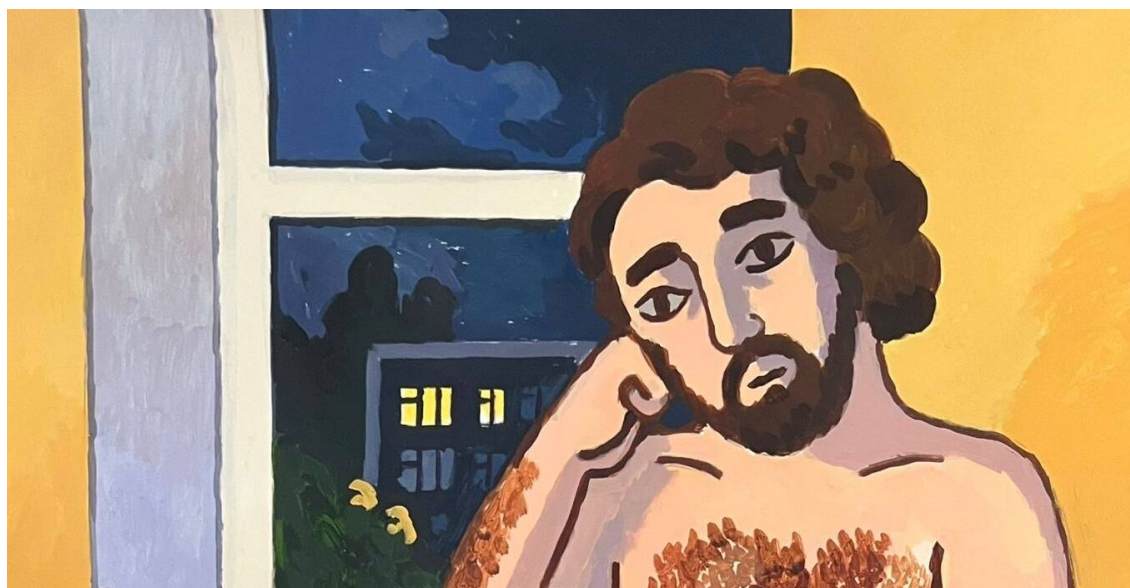


FORT GANSEVOORT

NEUBAUER
COLLEGIUM
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Zoya Cherkassky: The Global Political Crisis

Neubauer Collegium – July, 2025



Zoya Cherkassky, *A Loner* (detail), 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

This fall, the Neubauer Collegium will present Soviet-born Israeli artist Zoya Cherkassky's first solo exhibition in the US outside New York. Teasingly titled *The Global Political Crisis*, the exhibition will consist of a suite of erotic drawings in Cherkassky's signature diaristic style and four large acrylic paintings with similarly sexually charged content, as well as an erotic sculpture and a small collection of jokey pornographic chotchkes. Touching on the vexed issue of free speech at a moment when political and cultural leaders seem to have very clear ideas about what art should say and do (or, just as patronizingly, what it *shouldn't* say and do), Cherkassky's humorous paean to the "joy of sex" offers a vision of everyday desire that stands in knowing, defiant contrast with the planetary polycrisis alluded to in the title. More than a mere escapist fantasy, Cherkassky's foray into the age-old tradition of *ars erotica* symbolizes the importance of pleasure in our trying times – of joining the beleaguered forces of eros against a surging spirit of thanatos.

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