59 WOOSTER ST, 2ND FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10012 OFFICE@47CANAL.US (646) 415-7712

47 CANAL

Antoine Catala

I love you, I love you

April 4-May 3, 2025

The more I think it over, the more I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.

-Vincent van Gogh

What are traces of love? What is left of it in the physical world? A bouquet of flowers, perfume lingering in the air, a loving note on a table?

How about a fleeting intimate moment, a drawing in condensation after a shower?

Can love be captured? Can it be transmitted?
What about its absence, phantom love? Does it always have to hurt?

I am a happily self-diagnosed enneagram type 2. According to the literature, my biggest fear is not to be loved. So I use flattery to charm and express my love as a manipulative tool to get the reassurance I am craving. Insert here the title of this exhibition: "I love you, I love you."

A power struggle is instilled. Will you love me back?

It's clear to me now that art follows a love language. To get canonized, art is better off behaving as a bad lover: aloof, distant.

Only as van Gogh put it, love is the way. Love, I would add, in all of its candor and manipulative undertones, started to feel like an act of resistance.

---Antoine Catala, April 2025

The artist would like to thank Sean Raspet, Alex Hayden for fabricating the works in the exhibition, Benjamin Mattoon for the extra hand, Timmy Simonds for the conversations in generating the ideas behind this exhibition, Kristian Kilian from Vitacoat for the guidance and all 47 Canal staff.

Antoine Catala (b. 1975, France) lives and works in New York City. In 2002, Catala received his BA in Fine Art from the London Guildhall University. His most recent solo exhibition was "Babble Babble," Art Hall, Baltimore (2024); but he has also had solo exhibitions at 47 Canal, New York (2020); Praz-Delavallade, Los Angeles (2019); Marlborough Contemporary, London (2019); Musée D'Art Contemporain, Lyon (2015); and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2015), among others. His works have also been exhibited at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; MOCA Cleveland; Whitechapel Gallery, London; the High Line, New York; the Fridericianum, Kassel; and at MoMA PS1, New York, among other galleries and institutions. In addition, Catala was included in the New Museum Triennial, New York, and the exhibition "Collected by Thea Westreich Wagner and Ethan Wagner," which traveled from the Whitney Museum, New York, to Centre Pompidou, Paris. His work is included in several public collections including the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Centre Pompidou, Paris; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims France; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, France; and the Whitney Museum of Art, New York.