

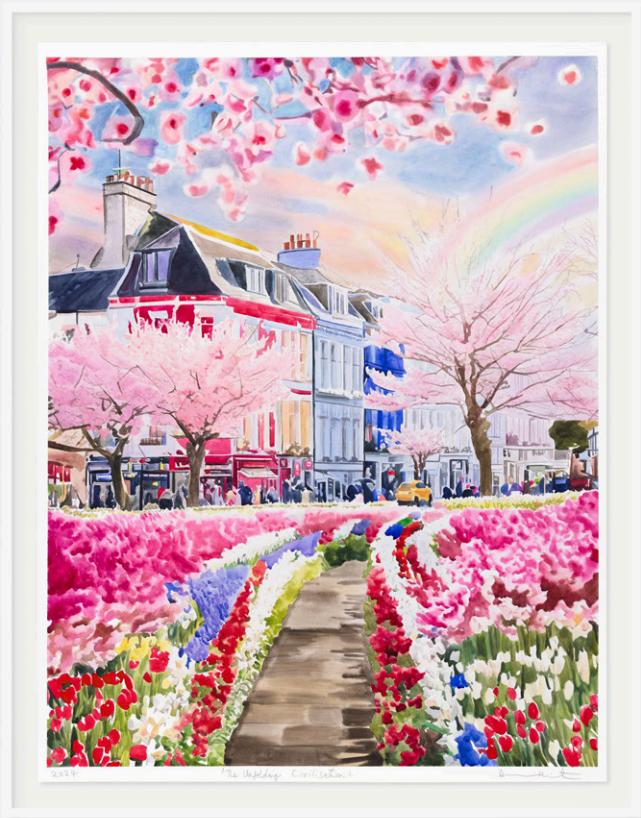


Damien Hirst

The Civilisation Watercolours

PRESS RELEASE
15.1.2026


HENI



HENI releases new original watercolour works on paper by Damien Hirst

HENI is delighted to present *The Civilisation Watercolours* by Damien Hirst, new original watercolour works on paper that reimagine the thriving urban landscapes from his *The Civilisation Paintings* series. The artworks are available by application exclusively on HENI Primary from 15 January until 17:00 GMT on 26 January 2026.

The artworks are watercolour works on paper and are presented in white, metal frames with Optium Tru Vue acrylic. The artworks come in two sizes, 156.1 x 113.6 cm and 119.1 x 93.6 cm (framed). Each work is titled and hand-signed by Damien Hirst on the front.

In *The Civilisation Watercolours*, Hirst explores the necessity of hope despite the complexities and challenges of contemporary civilisation, a theme first seen in his *The Civilisation Paintings* series. Using vibrant, optimistic colour, Hirst depicts memories or feelings of cities as bright, imagined landscapes in which flourishing plant life is set within urban environments. His scenes reveal an attempt to control the chaos of nature, observed in the planned-out pathways and curated arrangement of flora and trees. These artificial interventions in the landscapes are echoed in the grid-like structures of the buildings.

While in *The Civilisation Paintings* Hirst explores themes of chaos and hope with an anarchic and frenetic energy, in *The Civilisation Watercolours* he does so through a more

meditative lens. Optimism is intertwined with transience, in part aided by Hirst's intentional use of watercolour which lends an ethereal quality to his forms. In places, flower petals dissolve into blots or float away, leaving behind increasingly bare trees, while the tumultuous skies and shining rainbows are reminders that the world is in flux.

The Civilisation Watercolours works are on display at HENI Gallery until 25 January 2026. Admission to the gallery is free.

Exhibition dates: 15–25 January 2026

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday, 10am–6pm

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PRESS IMAGES DOWNLOAD:

<https://we.tl/t-8gYdizBIVS>

HENI PRIMARY:

heni.com/primary



Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst (b. 1965) was born in Bristol, England, and lives and works in London, Devon and Gloucestershire, England. Collections include Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy; Museum Brandhorst, Munich; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid; Tate, London; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Art Institute of Chicago; The Broad, Los Angeles; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; and 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan.

Exhibitions include *Cornucopia*, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (2010); Tate Modern, London (2012); *Relics*, Qatar Museums Authority, Al Riwaq (2013); *Signification (Hope, Immortality and Death in Paris, Now and Then)*, Deyrolle, Paris (2014); Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2015); *The Last Supper*, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (2016); *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana, Venice (2017); *Damien Hirst at Houghton Hall: Colour Space Paintings and Outdoor Sculptures*, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, England (2019); *Mental Escapology*, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2021); *Cherry Blossoms*, Fondation Cartier, Paris (2021); *Archaeology Now*, Galleria Borghese, Rome (2021); *The Weight of Things*, MUCA, Munich (2023-2024); and *To Live Forever (For a While)*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2024). Hirst received the Turner Prize in 1995.

"These watercolour paintings are about civilisation. I wanted them to feel like they exist on the edge of real and imaginary and have an element of entropy, I want you to feel that while the buildings are growing they could equally fall down. It's hard to have belief today and we would rather believe in a Disney animation than our own human relationships and that's what I've tried to touch on where I used the bright colours and soft paint, I want these paintings to be very much a part of the history and tradition of watercolour paintings." — Damien Hirst



2024

'Civilisation Blooms Forever'

Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst
Civilisation Blooms Forever, 2024
CZ6
Watercolour on paper
156.1 x 113.6 cm (framed)

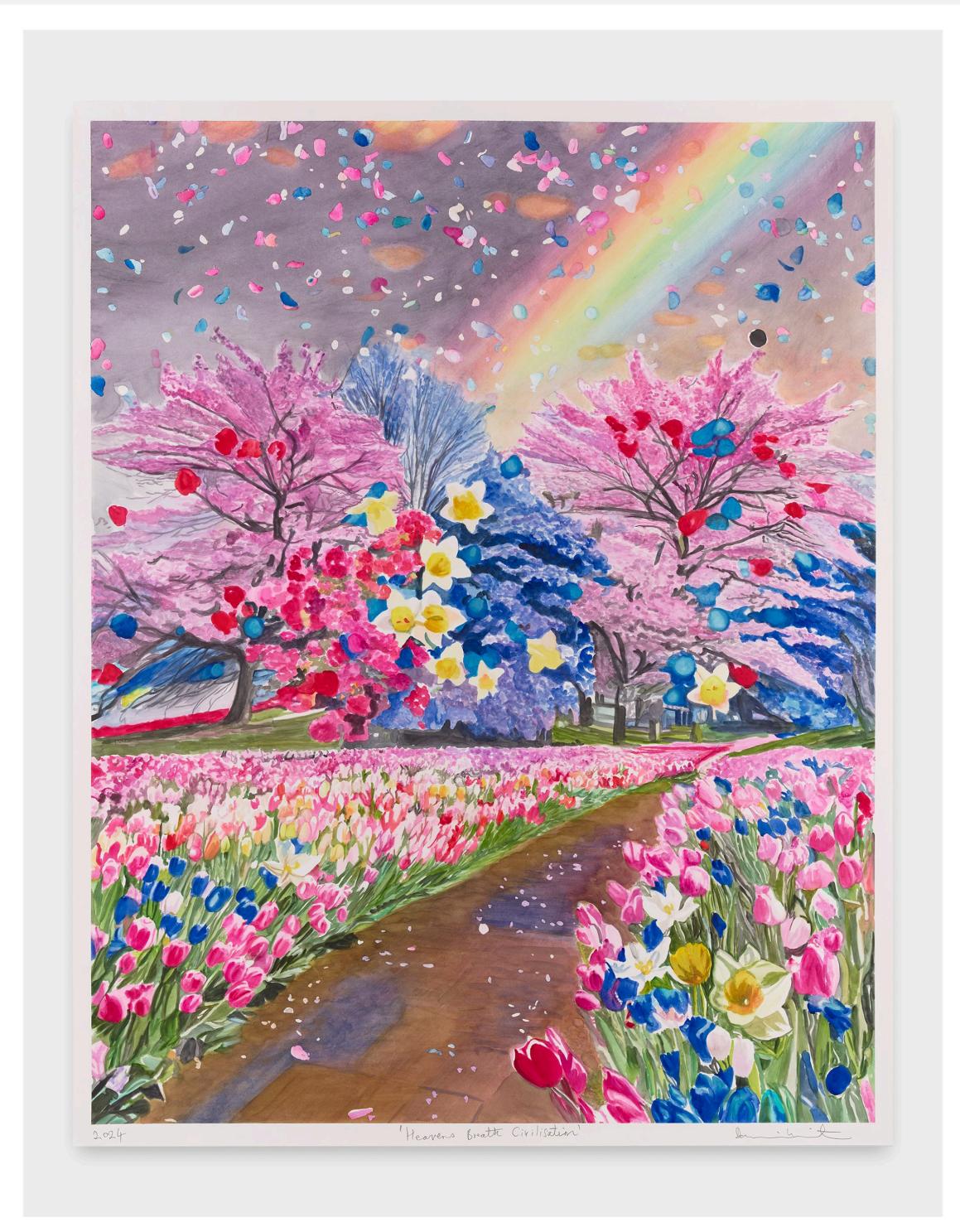


Damien Hirst
Nomadic Delights Civilisation, 2024
CZ10
Watercolour on paper
156.1 x 113.6 cm (framed)





Damien Hirst
The Carnival of Civilisation, 2024
CZ15
Watercolour on paper
156.1 x 113.6 cm (framed)



Damien Hirst
Heaven's Breath Civilisation, 2024
CZ22
Watercolour on paper
156.1 x 113.6 cm (framed)





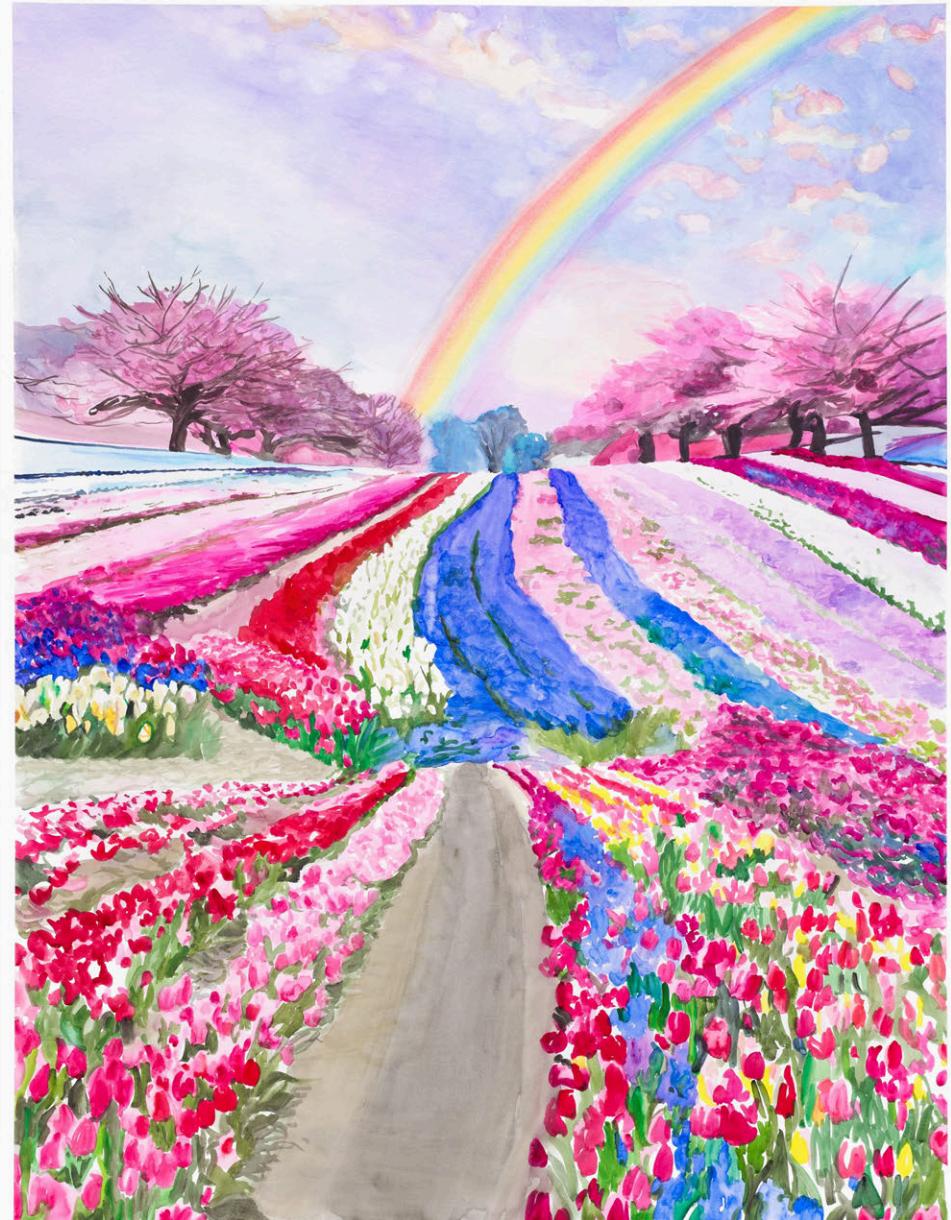


Damien Hirst
Arrested Civilisation, 2024
CZ31
Watercolour on paper
119.1 x 93.6 cm (framed)



Damien Hirst
Autocratic Civilisation, 2024
CZ33
Watercolour on paper
119.1 x 93.6 cm (framed)





Damien Hirst
Situationist Civilisation, 2024
CZ35
Watercolour on paper
119.1 x 93.6 cm (framed)



Damien Hirst
Adaptable Civilisation, 2024
CZ43
Watercolour on paper
119.1 x 93.6 cm (framed)





About HENI

HENI works with world-leading artists and estates across various sectors including print-making, releases of original artworks, book publishing, films, exhibitions, news and research. Our mission is to make art accessible to everyone by giving people the chance to learn about and collect art.

heni.com

HENI Primary

HENI Primary enables artists to release original works of art on a dedicated digital platform, bringing the traditional fine-art experience online. The platform focuses on the primary sale of original artworks, which have traditionally been handled exclusively by galleries and directly by artists' studios.

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