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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Chicago, IL, May 15, 2020 – **ANDREW RAFACZ** is pleased to announce our participation in **Not Cancelled Chicago**, a week-long digital art event featuring a selection of prominent contemporary art galleries in Chicago. We present new paintings and works on paper by Chicago-based artist Griffin Goodman. Not Cancelled Chicago runs from May 15 to 22.

Not Cancelled is an initiative that was born out of the need for viable digital options for art institutions that arose from the global, temporary closure of physical spaces. Its aim is to keep the art community engaged and help galleries promote their artists to an international community. Previous iterations of Not Cancelled have taken place with galleries located in Berlin, Vienna, Warsaw, and Paris. Future events will feature galleries from The Netherlands and Dubai.

For our participation in this first iteration of Not Cancelled Chicago, we present new works from Chicago-based artist Griffin Goodman. Utilizing the iconography of youth culture, popular branding and logos, and popular personalities, Goodman's paintings and drawings present a complex devotion to self-styled identity and the contemporary phenomenon of digital narcissism. Through their free-form juxtapositions of appropriated imagery sourced from popular culture and art history, the artist creates bricolages that speak to both the hyper-layered construction of Photoshop files and the densely packed metaphoric structure of Pop Art. Drawing from personal memories of his childhood, the work addresses a ubiquitous loss of innocence experienced in the transition from adolescence to young adulthood, where one can still escape from the reality of the world at large, into the rich fantasy life of popular culture. Goodman's paintings often subvert and contemporize traditionally known narratives of fairy tales.

Many of the works exhibited here for the first time were originally scheduled to be on view in the gallery this summer. Goodman spent the last several months under quarantine, like many artists right now, documenting his unique experience and marking the passing of this strange time.

GRIFFIN GOODMAN (American, b. 1995) lives and works in Chicago, IL. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2019 and a BFA from Ringling College of Art and Design in 2017. He has had recent group exhibitions at the Sarasota Art Center (Sarasota, FL), Jaw Gallery (Yamaguchi, Japan), and the Elmhurst Art Museum (Chicago, IL).

