

# Doron Langberg, *Hari*



Doron Langberg, *Hari*, 2022. Oil on linen, 18 × 24 inches (45.7 × 61 cm). © Doron Langberg.  
Courtesy of the artist and Victoria Miro. Photo: Matthew Herrmann.

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Doron Langberg, a queer artist, known for his explicit paintings most recent work *Hari*, made in 2022, is an oil on linen painting that shows the illuminating beauty of one's body by drawing a naked person with bright and vivid colors. Queer normalization is normalizing queerness and not treating it as something new but as something that has always been a part of us. The painting's vibrant palette enhances the artist's choice to invite viewers to find comfort and to represent queer normalization.

A combination of attributes, such as shape, color, or form, highlight the ease of the piece. Using sight and aesthetic senses the painting shows the beauty of Hari Nef. There are different shades and levels of vibrancy, ranging from light to dark shades of orange, pink, and red. There is also dark blue which greatly contrasts the pink, oranges and red. There is also white, and green, which add shadows, highlights, and some extra details. Each color evokes an emotion: Hari Nef shows warmth and intimacy due to her being nude and the combination of the range of orange, pink, and red. The canvas has a smooth texture with loose brushstrokes. Overall, the artwork radiates a sense of comfort or familiarity which invites viewers to connect with the subject on a personal level.

Langberg often paints vibrant portraits of people he has a connection with. Born in 1985 in Yokneam Moshava, Israel, and currently living in New York City. He got an MFA from Yale, a BFA from UPenn, and a PAFA certificate. He is represented by Victoria Miro.<sup>1</sup> Hari Nef is one of his friends and the woman in the painting *Hari*, she is an American actress and model who has appeared in shows like *The Idol* and *You*, and movies like *Barbie*. Hari Nef is a trans woman, but it doesn't show that or express that; in other words, it doesn't point out this fact, therefore normalizing it. His inspiration is to normalize queer love and intimacy, he says “I want even the

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<sup>1</sup> Miro, Victoria. “Doron Langberg” Victoria Miro. Accessed July 23, 2023. <https://www.victoria-miro.com/artists/237-doron-langberg/>

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most explicit of my paintings to feel very real every day because that's the role they have in my life."<sup>2</sup> He wants the audience to experience what he experiences normally and make them feel like it's normal too. He shows this in his work by depicting diverse relationships and exploring human connections. Langberg's paintings often capture tender moments between couples, and use the vibrant colors to highlight the beauty of queer love. Langberg's art serves as a powerful visual narrative and understanding of LGBTQ+ experiences.

*Hari* relates to the normalization of queer beauty. For example, Doron Langberg talks about how he wants the explicit nature of his paintings to be normal for everyone, which is why he uses bright colors because those colors attract people to the painting. In *Doron Langberg and the New Queer Intimism* by Tyler Malone Langberg says, "I see what I'm doing as an act of humanizing queerness—not making it sensational or 'other,' but making it casual, and making queerness a nexus for other meanings as well."<sup>3</sup> Langberg aims to make his paintings feel real and humanize queerness, making sexuality equally casual, or normal, to others in their life. *Hari* embodies Langberg's intention to portray queerness as a part of everyday life, highlighting queer normalization. Doron Langberg talks about how he transforms the queer experience into something many can relate to; he shows moments of his experiences and aims to normalize them in a way that doesn't take away from what he sees in his day-to-day life. He takes inspiration from Van Gogh and David Hockney who also show their life through their paintings and wishes to connect with the audience.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Malone, Tyler. "Doron Langberg and the New Queer Intimism." *Jewish Currents*, December 9, 2019. <https://jewishcurrents.org/doron-langberg-and-the-new-queer-intimism>.

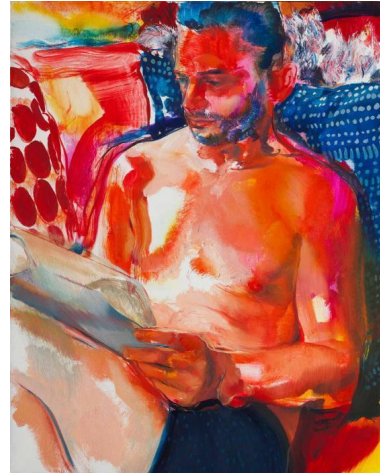
<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Suozzi-Rearic, Devin. "Painter Doron Langberg on What It Means to Be a Queer Artist." *Posture Media*, April 3, 2018. <http://posturemag.com/online/doron-langberg/>.

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The work is similar to the artist's other work, *Lover*, in that it follows the same vivid colors and nude body pattern.<sup>5</sup> I agree with the artist's choice of colors because each color demonstrates the emotions that the artist was trying to express. The different oranges evoke the warmth of the painting, and the pinks show femininity and intimacy. While the contrast of white and dark blue evokes a sense of confidence and comfort. These different colors are what draw people in to observe the painting. The original thoughts of the painting were that it was a symbol of freedom and self expression due to the serene expression and loose brush strokes that was shown in the painting, which could be argued, but after further investigations, there are deeper ideas that are supported by the artist's past work.



Doron Langberg's *Hari* depicts a nude individual in brilliant, vivid colors, showcasing the radiance of their body. The artist expresses queer normalization in his work by welcoming the audience and making them feel a sense of comfort. Does the audience feel comfort when looking at the painting?

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<sup>5</sup> Doron Langberg, *Lover*, 2021. Oil on linen, 30 × 24 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Victoria Miro. Photo: Joseph Coscia Jr.

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### Bibliography

1. Malone, Tyler. "Doron Langberg and the New Queer Intimism." *Jewish Currents*, December 9, 2019. <https://jewishcurrents.org/doron-langberg-and-the-new-queer-intimism>.
2. Miro, Victoria. "Doron Langberg" Victoria Miro. Accessed July 23, 2023. <https://www.victoria-miro.com/artists/237-doron-langberg/>
3. Suozzi-Rearic, Devin. "Painter Doron Langberg on What It Means to Be a Queer Artist." *Posture Media*, April 3, 2018. <http://posturemag.com/online/doron-langberg/>.
4. Doron Langberg, *Lover*, 2021. Oil on linen, 30 × 24 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Victoria Miro. Photo: Joseph Coscia Jr.