Wade
Clare THACKWAY
27 June - 29 August 2026
VIP Preview: Friday, 26 June 2026, 4 pm
Opening: Saturday, 27 June 2026, 4 pm
Location: Tabula Rasa Gallery, Beijing

Press release

Tabula Rasa Gallery is pleased to present Wade, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Clare Thackway, opening on 27 June. This is the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery, following Hold Tight at Tabula Rasa Gallery London in 2025. Born in 1984 in Canberra, Australia, Thackway lives and works in Paris. She studied painting at the Australian National University and has exhibited internationally since 2007.

The exhibition takes its title from the act of wading: moving forward without full visibility, feeling one's way through unfamiliar terrain. Throughout Wade, women and girls enter streams, stand at the water's edge, carry one another through flooded landscapes, or pause in the threshold between land and water. These are not images of arrival, but of passage.

One conceptual point of departure for the exhibition is Carl Jung's notion of solutio, in which immersion in water becomes a metaphor for moments of transition, when established structures begin to dissolve and new forms have yet to emerge. Rather than illustrating Jung's theory, Thackway's paintings remain close to the emotional condition it describes.

Landscape plays a central role throughout the exhibition. Derived from memories of a rainforest creek south of Sydney, the paintings unfold within an environment of dark water, fog, and dense bushland. The atmosphere of Peter Weir's 1975 film *Picnic at Hanging Rock* also resonates throughout the works, with its charged natural setting, suspended narrative, and sense of mystery.

Across the exhibition, Thackway returns to moments that resist resolution: before rescue is complete, before danger is named, before childhood gives way to what follows. Gestures of carrying, holding, stepping forward, and waiting become ways of picturing change as something lived rather than explained. The women in *Wade* are absorbed in their own relations and passages, moving before us rather than towards us.

The exhibition also includes Hysteria Drawings, a series of nearly one hundred watercolours on paper developed following Thackway's visit to the Freud Museum exhibition Women & Freud: Patients, Pioneers, Artists during her 2025 residency with Tabula Rasa Gallery in London. Drawing on nineteenth-century medical illustrations of so-called female hysteria, the series considers how women's pain, fear, desire, grief, and rage were historically misread through systems shaped by gendered prejudice. By pairing historical images with contemporary re-enactments, Thackway shifts them away from diagnosis and spectacle, towards empathy, embodiment, and recognition.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Clare Thackway (b.1984, Canberra, Australia) is an Australian artist who lives and works in Paris. Known for her forthright and intimate portraits and figurative paintings, the body in Clare Thackway's paintings becomes a semaphore through which she contemplates moments of human experience, from the emotional to the societal. Informed by ideas in psychology, feminism, and the history of painting, she considers how internal and collective experiences affect the ways in which we hold ourselves. The artist works with the fluid associations of cloth and pattern, illuminating the inner threads of our implicit memories and the deep and intricate connectivity between people. Her decisive and scratched back painted marks drag light off the surface of the body, exposing luminous translucent skin. This prudent use of paint gives pulsing life to flesh, revealing the layers that exist subtly underneath.

Clare holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Painting) from the Australian National University, with an exchange to Glasgow School of Art, and graduated from the National Art School Sydney with Honours in Fine Art. Since 2007, she has exhibited regularly in commercial and museum exhibitions and her work is held in private collections in Australia, the UK, Germany, and France.

Her recent solo exhibitions include *Hold Tight*, Tabula Rasa Gallery (London, UK, 2025); *Knowing*, Sophie Gannon Gallery (Melbourne, Australia, 2024); *Falling*, Le Pavé d'Orsay (Paris, France, 2024); *Patterns Changing,* Sophie Gannon Gallery (Melbourne, Australia, 2023). Her selected group exhibitions include: Art Basel Hong Kong, Tabula Rasa Gallery (Hong Kong, 2026); *COIL and ROAR*, Civic Art Bureau (Canberra, Australia, 2026); *Drape and the Weave*, Le Pavé d'Orsay (Paris, France, 2025); *Silent Presence*, Tabula Rasa Gallery with Veenue Gallery (Shanghai, China, 2024); *Winter exhibition*, Sophie Gannon Gallery (Melbourne, Australia, 2024); *Interconnected,* New England Regional Art Museum (Armidale, Australia, 2022); *L'Autre*, Le Pavé d'Orsay (Paris, France, 2021); *Unthinkable Fields*, ANCA (Canberra, Australia, 2021). Clare has been a finalist in several Australian art awards including the Archibald Prize, the Sir John Sulman Prize, the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, the Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship, the Blake Art Prize, the Portia Geach Memorial Award (Highly Commended 2017) and was the winner of the Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship (2009).

ABOUT THE GALLERY

With spaces in Beijing's 798 Art District and London's East End, Tabula Rasa Gallery was founded in 2015 to present contemporary art across diverse cultural contexts. In 2021, the gallery expanded to London, where it also runs an artist residency program that supports artists and fosters cross-cultural dialogues. Alongside exhibitions, Tabula Rasa develops talks, research, and publications to further engage with artistic practices.

All enquiries: info@gallerytabularasa.co.uk
Website: www.gallerytabularasa.com
Instagram: @tabularasa_gallery