

Avery Wheless
Echo

OCTOBER 17 – NOVEMBER 14, 2026
605 N WESTERN AVE, LOS ANGELES

OCHI

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Echo

October 17 – November 14, 2026
OCHI, Los Angeles
Opening reception October 17, 6–8 PM

OCHI is pleased to present *Echo*, an exhibition of new paintings and fragrance by Los Angeles-based artist Avery Wheless. This marks Wheless's second solo exhibition with the gallery. *Echo* will be on view at OCHI, located at 605 N. Western Avenue in Los Angeles. An opening reception will be held October 17 at 6-8 PM.

In *Echo*, Wheless pushes her traditionally figurative practice toward something more ephemeral and fleeting, allowing the figure to loosen into abstraction. Bodies emerge as afterimages, forms already in the process of disappearing and rematerializing. The paintings consider the instability of memory: how beauty and terror can coexist within a single recollection, and how the mind obscures and reshapes experience as a means of protection. What remains is never a complete record, but something continually altered by time and desire.

Throughout the exhibition, Wheless draws from Greco-Roman mythology and its long history of representation in Western painting, fragmenting compositions associated with figures such as Echo, Mnemosyne, and Morpheus. Together, they form a loose mythology of perception: Echo, what reverberates; Mnemosyne, what is remembered; Morpheus, what is imagined. Rather than illustrating these myths directly, Wheless repositions them as psychological landscapes, pairing their imagery with contemporary figures and experiences to explore the slippage between what is lived, what is remembered, and what is imagined.

Across these mythologies runs a question central to Wheless's practice: how much of what we understand as the self is constructed through memory and the gaze of another? Wheless approaches this question through her position as an artist, a woman, and a performer—simultaneously subject and object. Her work considers the ways women learn to experience themselves through the eyes of others, becoming both the surveyed and their own surveyor. Identity, in this sense, is not simply felt from within, but continuously formed through performance and the accumulation of remembered experience.

Drawing from her background in ballet, Wheless approaches the canvas as a kind of stage: a constructed psychological space in which the female figure is exposed yet entirely at ease in her own presence. Rather than performing for the viewer, she seems absorbed within her own interior world. Wheless treats the painted surface as an extension of the body, using the female form as a charged and unstable site of perception. They occupy a space as though caught in the process of becoming memory.

Echo extends these concerns beyond the visual and into the functional sculpture of scent. Developed with multidisciplinary art agency Goliath and the largest privately-held flavor and fragrance producer in the world, MANE, the fragrance becomes another medium through which memory is activated and distorted. Where painting attempts to hold an image, fragrance resists being held at all; it moves through space, changes on the body, disappears, and unexpectedly returns.



Avery Wheless, *not what I thought*, 2026 (detail)



Avery Wheless
not what I thought, 2026
Oil on canvas
60 x 72 in
152.40 x 182.88 cm
WHEAV_0079



Avery Wheless, *can you hear me*, 2026 (detail)



Avery Wheless
can you hear me, 2026
Oil on canvas
60 x 72 in
152.40 x 182.88 cm
WHEAV_0080



Avery Wheless, *fixture*, 2026 (detail)



Avery Wheless
fixture, 2026
Oil on canvas
54 x 42 in
137.16 x 106.68 cm
WHEAV_0082



Avery Wheless, *Even when I'm quiet*, 2026 (detail)



Avery Wheless
Even when I'm quiet, 2026
Oil on canvas
38 x 46 in
96.52 x 116.84 cm
WHEAV_0087



Avery Wheless
spark in the dark, 2026
Oil on canvas
40 x 30 in
101.60 x 76.20 cm
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Avery Wheless
our whole lives, 2026
Oil on canvas
14 x 14 in
35.56 x 35.56 cm
WHEAV_0085



Avery Wheless
aftermath, 2026
Oil on canvas
12 x 12 in
30.48 x 30.48 cm
WHEAV_0084



Avery Wheless
come on, 2026
Oil on linen
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Avery Wheless
more than anyone could ever say, 2026
Oil on canvas
14 x 14 in
35.56 x 35.56 cm
WHEAV_0086



Avery Wheless
around and around, 2026
Oil on canvas
14 x 14 in
35.56 x 35.56 cm
WHEAV_0083



Avery Wheless
so everything, 2026
Oil on canvas
14 x 14 in
35.56 x 35.56 cm
WHEAV_0089



Avery Wheless
still there, 2026
Monoprint on paper
14 x 9.5 in
35.56 x 24.13 cm
WHEAV_0091



Avery Wheless
summer storm, 2026
Monoprint on paper
9.5 x 13 in
24.13 x 33.02 cm
WHEAV_0092



Avery Wheless
summer storm ghost, 2026
Monoprint on paper
11.5 x 15 in
29.21 x 38.10 cm
WHEAV_0093



Avery Wheless
rest, 2026
Monoprint on paper
9.5 x 14 in
24.13 x 35.56 cm
WHEAV_0094



Avery Wheless
rest ghost, 2026
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Avery Wheless in her studio in Los Angeles, CA (2026). Image courtesy of the Artist & OCHI. Photo by Dani Drasin.

Avery Wheless is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans painting, performance, photography, and film. Informed by her background in dance, Wheless explores the body as an unstable site of perception, examining movement, desire, performance, and the unreliable nature of self-representation. Her figurative paintings often depict bodies caught between gestures, using abstraction and distortion to explore the space between presence and disappearance.

Avery Wheless (b. 1993, Charlotte, NC) received a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been exhibited internationally at venues including Superzoom in Paris, France; NADA with BOZOMAG Miami, FL; Garten Gallery in Como, Italy; Rusha & Co., Bergdorf Goodman in NY, and OCHI in Sun Valley, ID and Los Angeles, CA. Wheless held residencies at Katikía in Greece in 2023 and Soho Revue in London in 2026. Her work has been featured and reviewed in publications including Harper's Bazaar, Cultured, Flaunt, Artforum, Autre Magazine, Art Megastar, Portray, Reserved Magazine, and Vents Magazine. Wheless lives and works in Los Angeles, CA and is represented by OCHI.

Avery Wheless

Born 1993 in Charlotte, NC
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

2015 BFA, Painting, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Echo, OCHI, Los Angeles (forthcoming)
2024 Stage, presence, BOZOMAG, Los Angeles, CA
2023 Spinning Still, Rusha & Co., Los Angeles, CA
Precipice, Katikía Art, Monemvasia, Greece
2022 So Does Everybody Else, Seasons, Los Angeles, CA
Collective Intimacies, OCHI, Sun Valley, ID
2021 Embraceable Boundaries, OCHI, Los Angeles, CA (online)
2017 Avery Wheless + Jean-Michel Basquiat, Bam Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2014 Place and Space, Prince Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Arena, Fassbinder Gallery, Petaluma, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Love to Hate, curated by Brittany Fanning, Megan Mulrooney Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Ryan Art Advisory, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
2025 A Room Just So, Bergdorf Goodman, New York, NY
Design.Space, Basic.space at Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles, CA
Murmur, performance piece curated by Nora Shields, The Aster, Los Angeles, CA
2024 Enmeshed, NADA Miami, with Laura Watters, presented by BOZOMAG, Miami, FL
The Aspen Art Fair, presented by Rusha & Co., Aspen, CO
2023 Nouveau Bozeaux, BOZOMAG, Los Angeles, CA
Through the Looking Glass, curated by Gaïa Jacquet-Matisse, The Rosewood Houses, Los Angeles, CA
Untold Stories, Garten, Como, Italy
Horizons, Sow & Tailor, Hong Kong
The Bioelectric Self, The Pit, Glendale, CA
2022 Wish You Were Here, OCHI, Sun Valley, ID
Flames to Dust, Superzoom, Paris, France
Suggested Followers: How the Algorithm Is Always Right, curated by Jerry Gogosian, Sotheby's, New York, NY
Alone in a crowded place, curated by Jerry Gogosian + Matt Capasso, SPRING/BREAK, Los Angeles, CA
2021 Pink Gallery, Superzoom, Miami, FL
Mystic Truths, curated by Brooke Wise, NeueHouse Bradbury, Los Angeles, CA
Expanded Field, OCHI Aux, Los Angeles, CA
Breakfast in America, Seasons, Los Angeles, CA
2020 Full Family, Seasons, Los Angeles, CA
2017 Hard, but Soft, Junior High Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 Innerspace, Myer St. Annex, Los Angeles, CA
2015 Matter & Colour: Contemporary Painting Exhibition, Interlude Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Senior Painting Show, Woods Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI

Senior Group Show: My Goodies, Memorial Hall Gallery, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

2014 Graduate Show, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney, Australia

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2026 The Revue Residency, Soho Revue, London, UK

2023 Katikía Artist Residency, Monemvasia, Greece

2022 Superzoom Residency, Ardèche, France

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2026 "Avery Wheless: Ritual Rotation," Office Magazine, Mar 9

2025 "Avery Wheless Interviewed by Pauli Ochi," Reserved Magazine, Jun. 9

Patakos, Donnalynn. "Avery Wheless – Her Own Stage," Portray, Jun. 5

"At Bergdorf Goodman, "A Room Just So" showcases 19 international artists," artdaily, Apr. 23

2024 "Avery Wheless," Art Megastar, Oct. 30

Bowie, Summer. "Interview of Avery Wheless," Autre, Apr. 24

2023 "This Miami Art Week, 'CULTURED' Fêtes Women in the Arts in Good Company," Cultured, Dec. 8

Kyriakos, Maria. "Avery Wheless | Debuting Spinning Still," Flaunt, Nov. 15

Bowie, Summer. "Avery Wheless Celebrates the Vulnerability of Being in a New Environment with "Precipice" @ Katikía in Monemvasia, Greece," Autre, Jul. 17

2022 Gadsby, Bella. "Los Angeles Debut Solo Exhibition 'So Does Everybody Else,'" Flaunt, Dec. 17

2021 Helphenstein, Hilde. "The Frieze London Report 2021," Jerry Gogosian's Report, Oct. 19

Wyma, Chloe. "Diary: Planet Hollywood," Artforum, Sep. 12

2018 Huewe, Kyle. "Flaunt Premier: Avery Wheless' 'It'll Be Alright,'" Flaunt, Nov. 28

2017 Kahlon, Sonum. "Hard but Soft: A Look into Femininity via Art," Flaunt, Dec. 18

Zombie Rust, Stace. "J.D. King: Midnight Rendezvous," Destroy/Exist, Jun. 17

Frometa, RJ. "J.D. King Invites You to a 'Midnight Rendezvous' in a New Video," Vents Magazine, Jun. 16

Rock, Meagan. "Avery Wheless: Vague but Plausible," Moon + Rock, May 2

Nunes, Andrew. "The Everyday Perils of Womanhood Come Alive in a Harrowing Short Film," Vice, Mar. 20

Checklist



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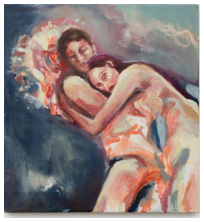
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