

ALICE AMATI

PANTA RHEI

SOPHIE BIRCH
MERVE CEYLAN
SAM CREASEY
RIKE DROESCHER
J. A FENG
HARRY GRUNDY
MINAMI KOBAYASHI
NICHOLAS MARSCHNER

12 JULY – 10 AUGUST, 2024

27 WARREN STREET
W1T 5NB LONDON

"Not long ago I went on a summer walk through a smiling countryside in the company of a taciturn friend and a young but already famous poet. They admired the beauty of the scene around us but felt no joy in it. He was disturbed by the thought that all this beauty was fated to extinction, that it would vanish when winter came, like all human beauty and all the beauty and splendour that man has created or may create. All that he would otherwise have loved and admired seemed to him to be shorn of its worth by the transience which was its doom."

Alice Amati is pleased to present a group exhibition including eight British and international artists reflecting on the possibility of coming to terms with the concept of change as an intrinsic and inevitable aspect of life. Drawing inspiration from the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who famously posited that we can never step into the same stream twice as "everything flows" — or "Panta Rhei" in Ancient Greek — this exhibition underscores the idea that both our surroundings and our inner selves are in a constant state of flux. It creates dialogues between artists who are concerned with this daunting yet liberating aspect of the human condition and address it from different perspectives. Responding to the ever-changing world they inhabit, each artist presented questions how, if at all, we can know our moving world and our place within it when our life is defined by change, both in our environment and within ourselves.

The realization and acceptance of the inevitable transience of what surrounds us is both the starting point and the driving force for the artists in the exhibition. Minami Kobayashi, Merve Ceylan, and Nicholas Marschner find solace in the ephemeral nature of our existence through the lasting memories of their past, building the surface of their canvases or excavating them until images of distant moments make themselves visible again. Sophie Birch looks for the traces or the aura left from the passage of all things in this world. Her painting exists in this search, embodying the changes they are trying to capture. Similarly, J.A. Feng creates richly textured surfaces on which emotional narratives of transformation emerge. Grundy and Droescher turn to elements from the natural world surrounding them, such as withering flowers or bodies of water, to offer a comforting stance on the transience of the world. Through their poetic and inquisitive works capturing the interaction between man and nature, they suggest that the time limitations on our enjoyment of the latter and its unpredictability are what make it more valuable. On the other end of the spectrum, Creasey observes the unstoppable transformation happening not only in nature but within our built urban environment. Characters inhabiting upside-down yet familiar landscapes become proxies for the artist's own experience of coming to terms with change in his surroundings.

Acknowledging that these artists reflect on our inherent need to capture the fleeting nature of our surroundings, and questioning whether this is achievable at all, the exhibition will not remain a static presentation. Instead, it will be restructured twice during its duration by invited curators. Kiera Blakey (Curator and Director of New Contemporaries) and Matan Daube (Curator and Director of the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection) will each intervene in the arrangement of the exhibition at different times, deciding what, if anything, should change.

¹ Freud, S. (1916). *Vergänglichkeit* (A. J. Grunthaler, Trans.). In *Das Land Goethes 1914-1916*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt. (Original work published 1915)



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sophie Birch (b. 1992, Littlehampton, UK) lives and works in London, UK. She holds a BA in Fine Art and Painting from the Wimbledon College of Art, London (2014) and completed The Drawing Year at The Royal Drawing School, London (2019). Recent exhibitions include: 'In Praise of Shadows', Melzi Fine Art, Milan, Italy (2024); 'A Painting Show', Staffordshire Street Gallery, London, UK (2024); 'Fruit and French Windows', Calcio Gallery, London, UK (2023); 'felt cute, might delete later', Arusha Contemporary, London, UK (2023); 'Hawthorn and the Feast of Julian', Arusha Contemporary, New York, US (2023); 'Nobody's Home', Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome (online) (2023); 'Primeval', Unit 1 Gallery, London, UK (2023); 'Folding Thresholds', dARTS, Paynes Wharf, London, UK (2022); 'OVERSPILL', Terrace Gallery, London, UK (2022); 'Separate Ways Together', 11 Sydney Mews, London, UK (2022) and 'A Plot, Hatched by Two', Yorkton Workshops, London, UK (2022). She was a part of the Dumfries House Residency in Scotland in 2023, and was shortlisted for the Contemporary British Painting Prize in 2022.

Merve Ceylan (b.1995, Landeck/ Zams, Austria) lives and works in Vienna, Austria. She attended the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach, Germany in 2021, and is currently a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria. Recent exhibitions include: 'I know you'll understand', Exhibit Eschenbachgasse, Vienna (2024); 'In the morning we sit eyeless in glass', AURA Kunstraum, Düsseldorf (2023); 'A letter', Hasnerstraße, Vienna (2023); 'Atelier der Schnecken', Rundgang der Gegenständlichen Malerei, Vienna (2023); 'Common Room', Galerie Hilger Next, Vienna (2022); 'Etagen', Projekt Haus, Vienna (2021); 'Diplom Nebenfach', Kirchturm Schloßkirche, Offenbach (2022); 'And This Is Us', Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt (2021); 'Rough House', magma maria, Offenbach (2020) and 'Solo extra', Flowershop, Offenbach (2020).

Sam Creasey (b. 1993, UK) lives and works in London, UK. He holds an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London (2020) and a BA in Fine Art and Painting from the University of Brighton (2016). Recent exhibitions include: 'Nimbly' Andrew Reed Gallery, Miami (2024); 'The Right Honourable', The Shop House, Hong Kong (2024); 'The Best of Bees', Quipp and Curiosity, Cambridge (2023); 'Horizon line', ABR Contemporary, Miami (2023); 'In the Heat of the Night', Andrew Reed Gallery, New York (2023); 'The Big Chill', Bernheim, London (2023); 'Sindbad: I can see land', Sindbad, Jeddah (2023); Royal Institute of British Architecture, Future Archive, London (2022); 'Waverton Art Prize' - 'Ungelded' (2022), Alice's Oyster Bar and Gallery, included in prize shortlist exhibition, London (2022); RCA Degree show, Barge House, OXO Tower Wharf, London (2022); 'City Entwined', Paradise Row, London (2022) and 'Abstraction Through Figuration', ABR Contemporary, Miami (2022).

Rike Droescher (b.1990, Stuttgart, Germany) lives and works in Dusseldorf, Germany. She graduated in 2020 from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, having studied in the classes of Professor Andreas Gursky, Alexandra Bircken, and Peter Piller. Solo and two-person exhibitions have taken place at Alice Amati, London (2023); Atelier am Eck, Düsseldorf (2023); Palatului Mogosoia, Bucharest (2022); Moltkerei Werkstatt, Cologne (2022) and Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf (2021). Her work featured in group exhibitions at Kunsthaus Essen, Essen (2023); Muzeul National al Hartilor si Cartii Vechi, Bucharest (2022); Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne (2022); K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf (2021) and Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (2021), amongst others. She was a finalist in the Fregellae Prize for small sculpture 2024 (Cepano, IT), and a recipient of Stiftung Kunstfonds's scholarship (2023), and Art Award for Sculpture of Diaconia Michaelshoven Cologne (2022) and was awarded the Bronner Residency in Tel Aviv (2023) and the Düsseldorf Ministry of Culture's Residency in Bucharest (2022).

J.A Feng (b. 1982, Champaign, IL) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received her MFA from Boston University (2015) and completed her residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2016). Recent solo exhibitions include: 12.26, Dallas, TX (2023 and 2020) and Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles (2022). Recent group exhibitions include DC Moore, New York, NY (2023); Nathalie Karg, New York, NY (2022); Eric Firestone Gallery, New York, NY (2022); Harkawik, New York, NY (2022); Tops Gallery, Memphis, TN (2022) and North Loop, Williamstown, MA (2022). In 2021, Feng was an Artist in Residence at the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program in Brooklyn, New York. Feng has also received fellowships from NYSCA/NYFA (2021); Shandaken Paint School (2020) and NARS Foundation (2017). Feng currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



Harry Grundy (b.1993) is currently based in Margate, UK. He holds a BA in Graphic Design from Kingston School of Art, Kingston, UK. He has since guest tutored there and at London College of Communication. Recent solo exhibitions include: 'Things Happen All the Time', Slugtown, Newcastle upon Tyne (2024); 'Small Blue Thing', Unit 1 Gallery Workshop, London (2024); 'Through the Green Fuse', Lot Projects, London (2023); 'Shipping Address', Palazzo Monti, Brescia (2023); 'Harry Grundy: Edge Collection', Whitaker Museum and Art Gallery, Rossendale (2022); 'Prevailing Rain', Abingdon Studios, Blackpool (2022); 'The Doing and the Done' Limbo Project Space, Margate, (2022) and 'mind-forg'd manacles', Filet Space, London (2021). Grundy has further shown work in Beijing, New York and Venice, and has had solo shows in Blackpool, Rossendale and Margate, UK. In September 2023, Grundy presented his first public commissions for the Chester Contemporary in the UK. He completed a residency at Palazzo Monti in Brescia, Italy in July 2023. Grundy has created sculptural editions for Hi Noon Editions and Object Multiple and a book of poems with Saltstung Press. Grundy has written for Elephant Magazine, AIGA, and Creative Lives in Progress.

Minami Kobayashi (b.1989, Nagoya, Japan) is currently based in London. She holds an MFA in Painting and Drawing from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago (2018) and a BFA in Painting from Tokyo University of the Arts (2016). Recent exhibitions include: 'I Spell a Word to Free You' with Adrienne Rubinstein, NADA Miami (2024) and Et Al Gallery, San Francisco (2023); 'Loose Threads', Bombon project Gallery, Barcelona (2024); 'Place and Presence' with Patrick Procktor, Frestonian Gallery, London (2023); 'Friends and Lovers', Shulamits Nazarian Gallery, Los Angeles (2023); Frestonian Gallery Summer exhibition, London (2023); 'Somewhere not here', Goldfinch Gallery, Chicago (2022); 'Trio show', Dinner Party Gallery, London (2022) and 'Lovely', OIL Gallery by Bijyutsu Techo, Tokyo (2022).

Nicholas Marschner (b.1995, London) lives and works in London, UK. He holds a BA in Product Design from the London Metropolitan University (2017). Recent exhibitions include: 'Great Expectations', General Assembly, London (2024); 'Nicholas Marschner', Alice Amati (Online) (2024); 'Intimations', Filet Gallery, London (2023); 'Radio Silence', Split Gallery, London (2023); 'Babele, Spazio Musa', Turin (2023); 'House on Mars', Collect Art Fair, London (2022); '20 Turlow Place, London Design Festival', London (2020); 'On Growth and Form', Filet Gallery, London (2019); '20 x 30cm', Ace Hotel, London (2017). Marschner had a solo booth at Art Brussels in 2024 with Alice Amati.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Alice Amati is a contemporary art gallery established in Fitzrovia in June 2023. The gallery is committed to fostering artists at the early stages of their career by often providing the opportunity for their first solo show in the city and a supportive context for artistic explorations and career development. Concerned with encouraging transnational dialogues around topical questions within society and art, Alice Amati brings together British and International artists through a challenging, experimental and rigorous exhibitions programme. Joining a cohort of young and established galleries in the burgeoning artistic scene of Fitzrovia, Alice Amati operates as a platform for new voices in the contemporary global artistic scene with a strong commitment to research, collaboration and diverse practices.

For more information, sales enquiries, interview and image requests please contact: info@aliceamati.com