

Ciaccia Levi

Amber Andrews
Whispers and Whiskers

September 19 - November 15, 2024

Ciaccia Levi is pleased to present *Whispers and Whiskers*, Amber Andrews' third solo show with the Gallery. The exhibition features a new sculpture and a new series of paintings, specifically conceived for the Milan space. With this new body of work, Andrews explores the nuanced and often overlooked connection between women and cats, viewed through a domestic and female lens, while also delving into their cultural and historical symbolism.

Historically, cats and women have shared a complex bond that is frequently misunderstood or misrepresented. Andrews' work seeks to reframe this relationship by uncovering deeper, more intimate parallels between their shared qualities, particularly within the domestic context. Cats have long been associated with femininity, sometimes in mystical or negative ways, symbolizing independence, mystery, and sensuality. Often seen as creatures of duality - graceful yet fierce, independent yet affectionate - cats mirror the experience of women, particularly those confined to domestic roles, who balance societal expectations with their inner desires for autonomy. In this sense, cats become metaphors for the balance women seek between nurturing others and maintaining their own identity and independence. Simple gestures, such as grooming—a cat licking its fur or a woman brushing her hair—recur in Andrews' works. She is particularly interested in the ritualistic aspects of self-care and caregiving. These acts can be seen as metaphors for women's historic roles as caregivers and homemakers, yet they also reflect hidden strength, self-reliance, and resilience.

This duality is a central theme in Andrews' work, drawing parallels between the mystique of felines and the often unseen strength of women. In *Whispers and Whiskers*, the domestic sphere transforms from a place of routine into a space of reflection and empowerment. The exhibition invites viewers to look beyond surface interpretations and appreciate the deeper, often silent, power and complexity that lies beneath these everyday rituals, whether human or feline.