



**Miko Veldkamp**

# **BUKETAN**

8 October - 9 November, 2024  
27 Warren Street  
W1T 5NB London

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Alice Amati is delighted to announce *Buketan*, Miko Veldkamp's first solo show with the gallery, running from the 8th of October until the 9th of November. The exhibition's opening reception will coincide with Frieze's West End Night, on Thursday 10th of October from 6-8pm. The artist's first publication will be released to accompany the exhibition and will include a new essay written by Dr Omar Kholeif.

Originally from Suriname, raised in the Netherlands, and now based in New York City, Veldkamp seamlessly weaves cultural and visual elements from each place he has called home into a dreamlike world that transcends spatial and temporal boundaries. Infused with a personal mix of cultural signifiers, the exhibition reflects on themes of history, belonging, colonialism, and urban landscapes.

Through shape shifting pseudo self-portraits, and psychological metaphors such as mirrors, windows, and shadows, Miko Veldkamp creates portals into different cultural spheres. His careful consideration of how elements are divided and connected within the picture plane creates a balance between studied complexity and playful lightness. Parts of his paintings are intentionally left unrendered, allowing a glimpse into the process of building-up of the paint and conveying a sense of time passing. Veldkamp paints directly onto the canvas without preliminary studies or drawings, allowing the work to unfold spontaneously for the viewer. Light washes of colour are applied in layers, with elements fading in and out, creating shifting degrees of legibility, as memory, imagination, the past, and the future fluidly interchange.

Despite their idyllic appearance, Veldkamp's works are a personal quest to unpack the complex colonial relations between North and South, East, and West. His psycho-cultural dreamscape blend memories from the artist's past and present homes with influences from Western art history and Javanese-Surinamese ghost stories. Through this deeply personal lens, Veldkamp attempts to decolonize psychology, subverts entrenched stereotypes and concepts of authenticity, and addresses the constant negotiations between one's identity and the feeling of belonging. The title of the exhibition, *Buketan*, embodies this concept by encapsulating a rich cultural narrative rooted in the heritage of Javanese tradition. Etymologically traced to the French term 'bouquet', it signifies a distinct motif frequently encountered in batik textiles, where European floral elements are intricately intertwined with indigenous tropical flora native to Indonesia. This synthesis of Western and local aesthetics persists as a symbol of cultural significance, not only within Indonesia but also among diasporic Javanese communities, notably in Suriname.

Furthermore, the artist reflects on *Buketan* as a symbol of counter-narrative to the "Indo archetype" present in Dutch culture and literature—where Indo individuals, of mixed Dutch and Indonesian descent, often grapple with being "in-between," never fully belonging to one place or identity. Rather than embodying this sense of displacement, *Buketan*, in Veldkamp's work, symbolizes the possibility of belonging to multiple places at once. It reframes identity as something fluid and multifaceted, reflecting the artist's exploration of the complexities of belonging beyond cultural binaries. Thus, abstracted motifs reminiscent of *Buketan* frequently appear throughout Veldkamp's work, serving as a testament to the interconnectedness of cultural identities that define his artistic practice. This mirrors the deeper struggle of reconciling personal and collective histories, ultimately framing the artist's practice as a process of overcoming struggles of belonging—not through exclusion, but through embracing multiplicity and hybridity.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Miko Veldkamp (b. 1982, Suriname) grew up in The Netherlands and has been based in the United States since 2014. He currently lives and works in NYC. He was a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam and a recipient of the Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University, and in 2021 he graduated from the Hunter College MFA painting program. Recent exhibitions include: 'Teach me how to fish', group show, Art Intelligence Global, Hong Kong (2024); 'The 7th Wall', group show, Alice Amati, London (2024); 'Postcards from Home' BB&M Gallery, Seoul (2023); 'Confetti in the Shade', Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York (2023); 'Long Distance', Long Story Short, New York (2023); 'Botany of Desire', group show, Swivel Gallery, New York, (2023); 'Just Play', group show, The Here and There, New York, (2023); 'Decoy', group show, Workplace Gallery, Newcastle, (2023); 'Second Nature', Southwark Park Galleries, London (2022); 'Ghost Stories', Workplace, London (2022); 'Viscereal', group show, Althuis Hofland, Amsterdam, (2022); 'Kaleidoscope', group show, Workplace Gallery, London, (2022); 'Dream Life', group show, BB&M Gallery, Seoul, (2022); 'The privilege of getting together', group show, Regular Normal at Swivel Gallery, New York, (2021), amongst others.

In 2016 Veldkamp was nominated for the van Bommel van Dam Prize. His work was recently featured in Artforum, New American Paintings, ArtMaze Magazine, Metropolis M and Juxtapoz amongst others.

## 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](mailto:info@aliceamati.com)