



Nika Kutateladze

A Man, a Calf, and Another Man

Mar 14 – Apr 19, 2025

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Mendes Wood DM New York



Mendes Wood DM is pleased to announce Nika Kutateladze's *A Man, a Calf, and Another Man* – the artist's first solo exhibition in New York and his first with Mendes Wood DM. The exhibition, which intersects visions of human and animal instincts and rituals, features a suite of new oil paintings, painted on wood board, and one large format work painted on unstretched canvas.

Kutateladze's new body of work picks up with the painter's ongoing exploration of daily life in the small societies in the republic of Georgia. By depicting abstracted rural environments and the men who inhabit them, Kutateladze dissects tensions and camaraderie among these inhabitants, portraying weathered, stoic faces, atmospheres of both fierce independence and pack mentality in a largely depopulated setting. The natural world, which presides over Kutateladze's often dissolving landscapes, appears in glimpses – through rivers, wolves, and mountains. At once oneiric and ecological, these symbols serve as a tool to dig deeper into the Anthropocene's powerful effects on the psyche.

Primarily painted on wood board, Kutateladze's works inherit and preserve material traditions of Georgian Orthodox painting while employing desaturated, muted tones. Their idiosyncratic figures' eyes, in particular,

often blend into the background or appear eclipsed, frosted over, evoking narratives of independence, strength, fragility. Simultaneously, Kutateladze's brushstrokes and blending techniques lend the fluid, almost smoky texture of works like *Man is cutting his own hair* (2025), *Reflection in the mirror* (2025) and *First night* (2025) which evoke a dreamlike sense of dissociation between body and imagination.

Kutateladze's practice has spanned both painting and installation. However, for this exhibition, the artist has turned his focus solely to painting and, for the first time, exhibits a large-scale work on unstretched canvas. By expanding the painted field and hammering the canvas into the wall, Kutateladze gestures toward a style of protest and manifesto. At a time when draconian laws imposed by Georgian authorities threaten image-making culture and freedom of expression, Kutateladze invites viewers to engage with layered expressions of communal existence and erasure as a form of resistance.

A Man, a Calf, and Another Man

Two men lived across from each other.

They shared a calf.

The calf used to eat acorns that had fallen from a tree in the neighboring yard.

The calf died.

On the first day after its death, they blamed each other.

The next day, without a word, they prepared their chainsaws.

The day after, they went to the neighboring yard where the calf used to graze.

Two yew trees stood there – two acorn trees that had poisoned the calf.

They cut them down without saying a word.

They cut them down without saying a word.

They cut them down without saying a word.

They had shared a calf but never a word.

That night, there was a celebration.



Nika Kutateladze, *Two men and the calf*, 2025, oil on canvas, 170 x 250 cm | 66 7/8 x 98 3/8 in, MW.NKU.006,









Nika Kutateladze

Man is cutting his own hair. Reflection in the mirror, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.003







Nika Kutateladze

The Man, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.002





Nika Kutateladze

First night, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.008





Nika Kutateladze

Reflections in the windows with mountains and the river, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.009





Nika Kutateladze

Meeting, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.010





Nika Kutateladze

Preparation 3, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.011





Nika Kutateladze

Man is preparing himself, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.012





Nika Kutateladze

Third night, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 x 3 cm

11 3/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

MW.NKU.013





Nika Kutateladze

Untitled, 2025

oil on wood

29 x 21 cm

MW.NKU.014





Nika Kutateladze

Celebration, 2025

oil on wood

122 x 86 x 5,5 cm

48 x 33 7/8 x 2 in

MW.NKU.004







Nika Kutateladze

Men clean themselves in the river after work, 2025

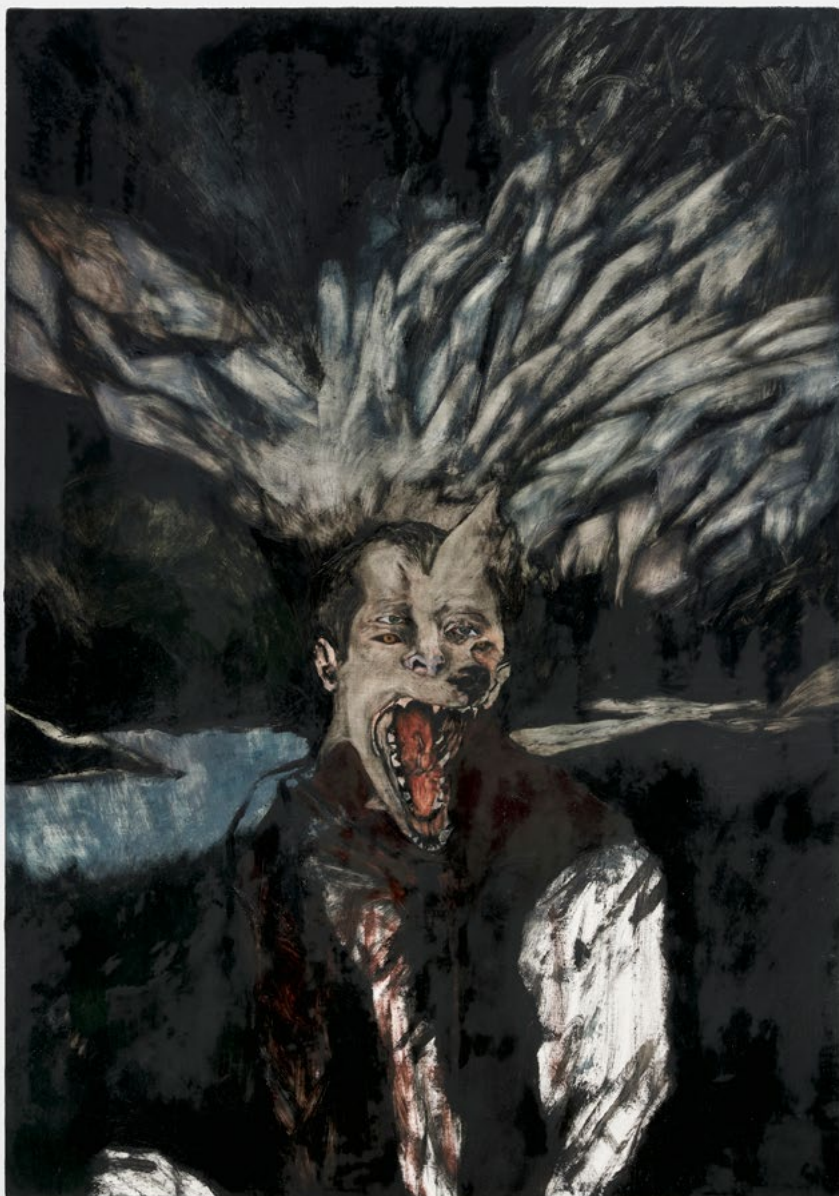
oil on wood

122 x 86 x 5,5 cm

48 x 33 7/8 x 2 in

MW.NKU.005





Nika Kutateladze

Preparation 2, 2025

oil on wood

86 x 61 x 5,5 cm

33 7/8 x 24 x 2 in

MW.NKU.007






Nika Kutateladze (born 1989, Tbilisi, Georgia), lives and works in Tbilisi.

Recent exhibitions include *La Maison Georgie*, **Maison Des Arts Georges & Claude Pompidou**, Cajarc (2024); *They Were Born Together, They Will Die Together*, **Modern Art**, London (2024); *My Neighbour is a House*, **Artbeat**, Tbilisi (2023); *The Way We Live Together*, **VITRINE Bermondsey**, London (2023); *Tariel is Getting Ready for Hibernation*, **Artbeat**, Tbilisi (2021); *To Protect My House While I'm Away*, **Tbilisi Architectural Biennial**, Tbilisi (2018); *Watermill on Former Pavlov Street*, **Kunsthalle Tbilisi**, Tbilisi (2018).

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