

Quintessa Matranga

*Water Sign*

May 11 - June 15, 2025

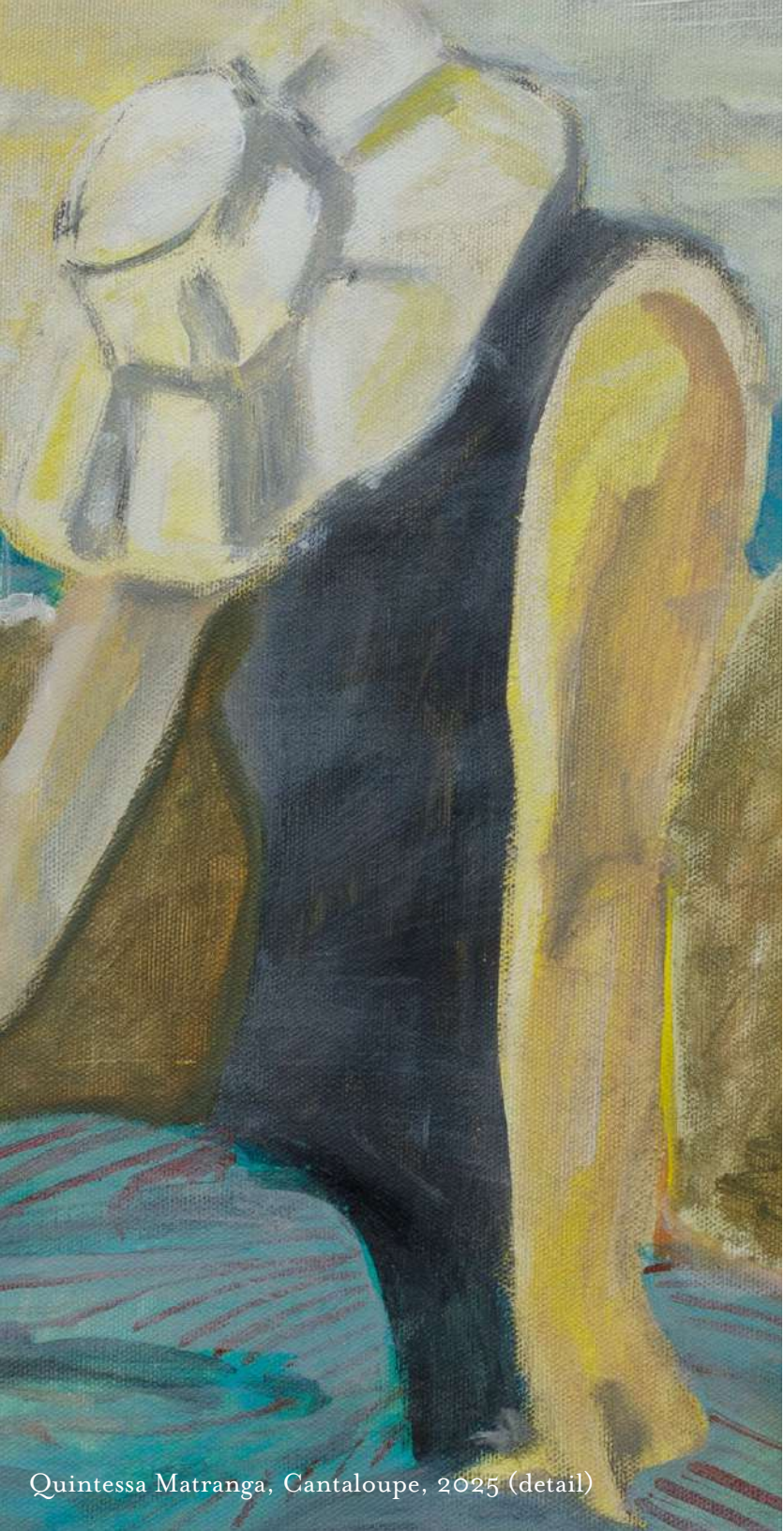


Quintessa Matranga, *Candy*, 2025 (detail)

House of Seiko

3109 22nd Street, San Francisco, CA





# Water Sign

Quintessa Matranga

May 11 - June 15, 2025

Quintessa Matranga (b. 1989, New York) moved back to San Francisco in 2020 after spending a formative period working and exhibiting in New York. The artist's return to her former homebase prompted a gradual reappraisal of her relationship to painting, as she was no longer contending with the self-set demands of operating in the crowded field of the New York art world and could begin to think more autonomously about what compelled her toward painting to begin with.

Previously known for creating mostly conceptual paintings exploring humor and personal narrative content, Matranga's works now reveal a painterly core and pictorial language that reflects her day-to-day life more than anything else. The images have become more lyrical than conceptual, more humanist than ironic. Matranga's paintings now reach for the ecumenical (i.e. the general and inclusive) rather than the singular statement.

The title of the exhibition—*Water Sign*—was partly inspired by an article Matranga's friend, the artist Dan Graham (1944–2022) wrote and later sent to her about the architect John Lautner, recognizing the architect as a cancerian, like Matranga, who incorporated water in the center of his designs. Like Lautner's work, Matranga's paintings are also water signs. They take us close to the water, and closer to the substance of painting (in this case works executed with a water-based acrylic medium). At the center of her latest paintings is a relaxed sense of making art as a part of everyday life—finding compelling, unexpected images in her daily activities that would be impossible to conceptualize cerebrally.

One image in particular has become a recurring focus for the artist: two young men on the shore of the Russian River looking on as ducklings go about their business. It's a non-moment maybe, but one that is perfect for Matranga's painterly research. Leisurely moments, both idealized and real, are held in tension with an almost brooding sense of concreteness and tactile reality. Forms are depersonalized and abstracted; specificity is blurred and what emerges is a more open-ended pictorial experience.

- Anthony Atlas







Quintessa Matranga, *Water Sign*, Installation View, House of Seiko, San Francisco, 2025





Quintessa Matranga  
Candy, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

18 3/8" x 24" x 1 1/2" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Candy*, 2025 (detail)



Quintessa Matranga  
Butterscotch Ghost, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

19 7/8" x 21 7/8" x 1 1/2" in





Quintessa Matranga, *Butterscotch Ghost*, 2025 (detail)



Quintessa Matranga  
Cantaloupe, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

19 1/4" x 21 3/4" x 1 1/2" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Cantaloupe*, 2025 (detail)





Quintessa Matranga  
Bamboo Champagne, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

19 5/8" x 21 3/8" x 1 1/2" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Bamboo Champagne*, 2025 (detail)



Quintessa Matranga  
Orbit, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

19 7/8" x 27 7/8" x 1 1/2" in





Quintessa Matranga, *Orbit*, 2025 (detail)



Quintessa Matranga  
Alpine, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

19 7/8" x 22" x 1 1/2" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Alpine*, 2025 (detail)





Quintessa Matranga  
Vanilla, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

17 3/8" x 29 1/8" x 1 1/2" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Vanilla*, 2025 (detail)





Quintessa Matranga  
Abacus, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

17 3/8" x 29 1/8" x 1 1/2" in





Quintessa Matranga, *Abacus*, 2025 (detail)



Quintessa Matranga  
Cocoa, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas

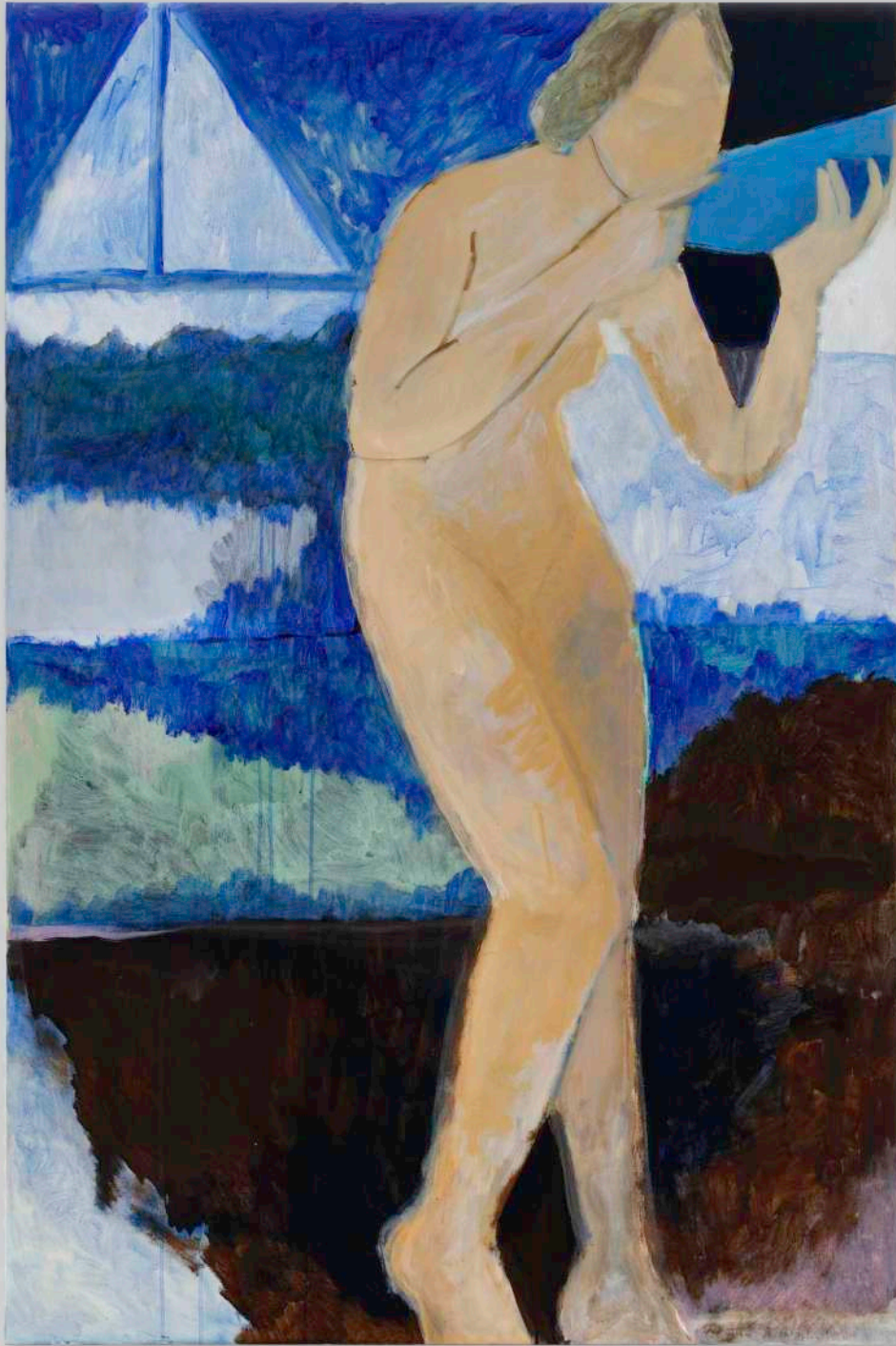
16" x 26" x 1" in





Quintessa Matranga, *Cocoa*, 2025 (detail)

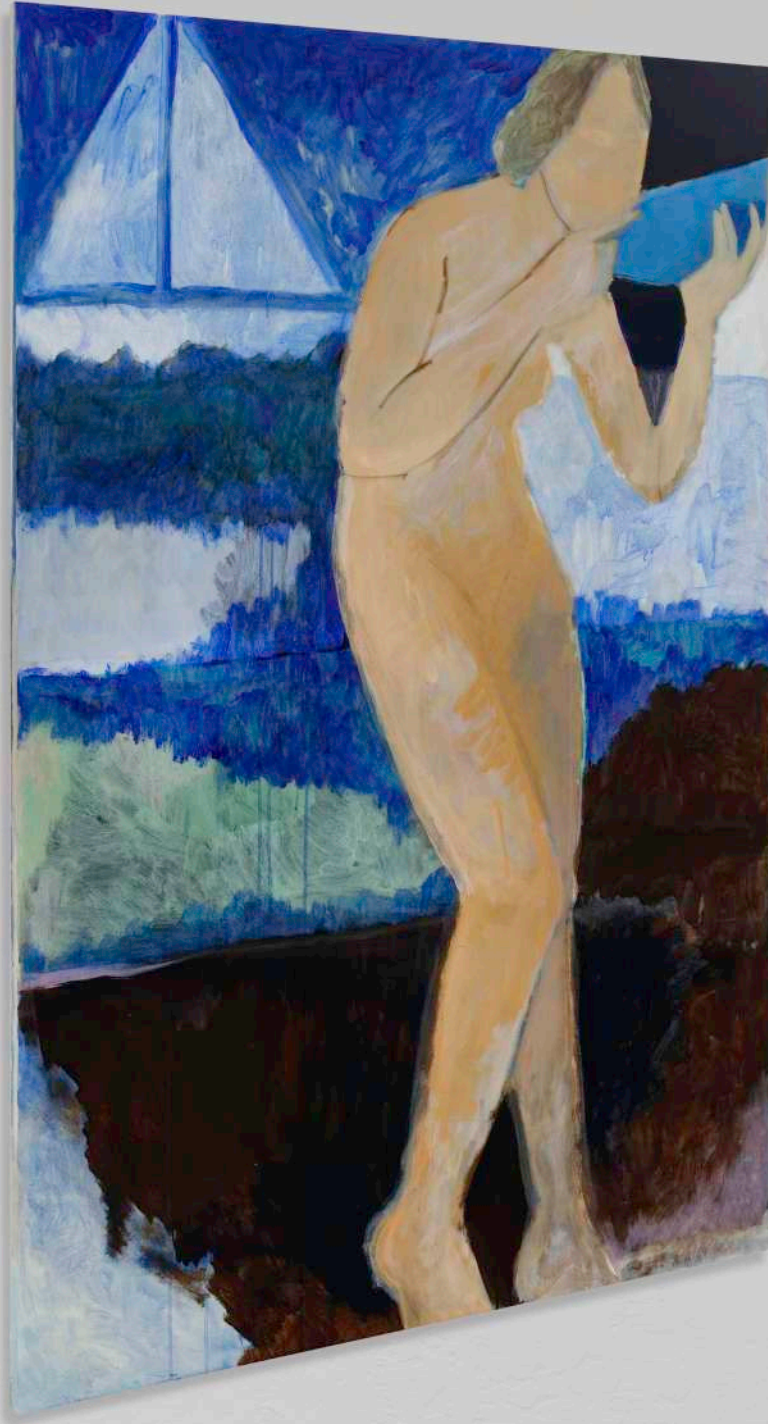




Quintessa Matranga  
Apricot, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas

40 1/8" x 60" x 1" in



Quintessa Matranga, *Apricot*, 2025 (detail)





Quintessa Matranga  
Charcoal, 2025

acrylic and white chalk on canvas  
artist frame

18 7/8" x 19 7/8" x 1 1/2" in





Quintessa Matranga, *Charcoal*, 2025 (detail)