

Sofia Defino Leiby
High Noon
September 6 – November 16, 2025
Kunstverein Nürnberg — Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft

Opening: September 5, 2025, 19:00



(c) Sofia Defino Leiby

“High noon” represents the apex of the summer solstice; noon on the hottest day of the year, during one of the hottest years in history. It also symbolizes a confrontation or a climax. Sofia Defino Leiby’s exhibition “High Noon” at Kunstverein Nürnberg — Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft is the culmination of her five-month residency as the Marianne Defet Painting Fellow. Her first institutional solo exhibition, it represents her sustained interest in (digital) surfaces, artistic styles, corporate identities, and architecture. Traces of her near-obsessive reworking of her pool of source material, including logos, ads, headlines, and self-help books, can be found in her works.

In “High Noon”, Leiby translates the overlapping conditions of our present moment — political agitation, anger, grief, and withdrawal — into a visual form, while also addressing cultural phenomena such as cocooning, hope-core, and immersive or excessive gaming. What shape does outrage take when it turns into resignation, a diffuse numbness, or a retreat into parallel worlds? And which aesthetics emerge within spaces of individual escapism and digital and analogue self-care? The resulting gestures range from seemingly casual acts of appropriation to meticulously crafted, laborintensive works. Alongside plein-air watercolors, which reference physical existence and observation, the exhibition also addresses screen-based perception, featuring virtual photographs of custom 3D worlds, expanding the traditional scope of landscape painting into a hybrid space of memory, fiction, and simulation.

A publication accompanying the exhibition documents the works on view and presents materials that informed Leiby’s practice during her time in Nuremberg. It includes an introduction by Nele Kaczmarek, exhibition texts by Otto Bonnen and Leonie Schmiess, and contributions from Michael Van den Abeele, Zuzanna Bartoszek, Nelson Beer, and Andrew Wagner.

Sofia Defino Leiby (*1989, USA) has recently held solo and two-person exhibitions at Sweetwater, Berlin; Mala, Lisbon; HYLE, Athens; and PAGE, New York. Her work has also been shown in group exhibitions at Sangheeut, Seoul; BINZ39, Zurich; Sophie Tappeiner, Vienna; and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin. Her writing has appeared in Texte zur Kunst, BOMB, Spike Art Magazine, and Leap Art Magazine. She has presented performances at Sculpture Center, New York; The Wig, Berlin; and Kunsthalle Zürich.

Curated by: Nele Kaczmarek and Leonie Schmiese

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Please find press images here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ufbcqgs5HgKhoWOOq-J2rn8hy0qErk6s?usp=sharing>