

Betsy Bradley

Upwelling

14th November – 20th December 2025

Upwelling is an oceanographic phenomenon whereby wind driven, nutrient rich water from the depths rises to the surface, forming areas where life thrives.

In the first room four large works are situated back to back and suspended in the centre of the space, spanning floor to ceiling. Sweeping gestural marks cover the diaphanous material, the paint is translucent and light seeps in from either side. The large panels divide the space and a swing fashioned from used stretcher bars hangs in between the works. Seated, the viewer can pause, enveloped between gestures and colour suspended in space.

Bradleys paintings employ transparent voile stretched over reclaimed wood, as a support for gestural mark making. Large brushes need to be fabricated specifically to make these broad strokes, the water and paint are captured by the thin material. Layering the fabric also creates a shifting moire effect that moves with the viewer, reflecting the artists view of her surfaces as living, breathing spaces. Bradley's marks are so slight, they can be read as a record of a gesture more than an application of a substance.

Brushstrokes appear also on the gallery floor in pigmented sand, ephemeral arrangements of colour made with slow and deliberate movements. These works are a precise distillation of the artist's position, a series of uplifting, positive moments, joyful and inherently transitory. For Bradley, the cumulative moments in *Upwelling* coalesce as a series of interlinked, organic gestures, into a broad metaphor for renewal and regeneration.

Betsy Bradley (b. 1992, Bath, UK) lives and works in Warwickshire, UK.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Bayou* at Sacred Thing in Stroud (2024) *Betsy Bradley* at Vardaxoglou, London (2022) and *Chasing Rainbows* at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK (2021). She gained her MA Fine Art from Birmingham School of Art in 2018.