

# PODIUM

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**Date:** 29 November 2025—28 February 2026

**Opening:** 29 November 2025, 2:00—7:00 PM

**Artist:** Dennis Scholl

Please visit the link [HERE](#) to download all media-related materials.



DENNIS SCHOLL. *From Now on We Will Only Speak of The Light*, 2025, oil on canvas, 155 x 190 cm.

© Dennis Scholl (2025). Courtesy of the artist and PODIUM, Hong Kong

PODIUM is proud to present 'Like a Thief in the Night', Berlin-based artist **Dennis Scholl**'s first solo exhibition in Asia and with the gallery. Known for his lush and phantasmagorical paintings and drawings, Scholl has been creating enigmatic worldviews where human and non-human beings oscillate between brutality and beauty, violence and tenderness. In this ambitious body of work, spanning 16 new paintings and a collection of drawings, the artist draws upon the pastoral as both a locus of sentimentality and a theatre of profound spiritual allegory. Centring on the recurring image of the shepherd—a guide of flocks—Scholl reimagines it as a sacred figure that commands cultivation and sacrifice across human and non-human life. Through his enchanting visual language and storytelling, Scholl invites the viewers to inhabit the crux of tension between comfort and foreboding, belonging and exile, nurture and disruption; reminding one that vigilance is not merely a stance of fear but also of attention and tenderness—that to live in anticipation of the unknown is to remain awake to care for oneself. The exhibition opens on 29 November 2025 (Sat) from 2 to 7 pm and is on view until 28 February 2026 (Sat).

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The poetic and evocative exhibition title imbues a biblical undertone that is both uncannily intimate and unsettling. To arrive *like a thief in the night* is to arise suddenly, secretly, without warning—echoing the words of the New Testament that describe the hidden hour of Christ's return and the coming of judgment. In Scholl's solo presentation, this idiom is neither a moral threat nor a promise of catastrophe, but a call to dwell in the charged space of unknowing. The thief-Christ is paradoxical: feared for intrusion yet awaited as saviour, disruptive yet redemptive. In this vein, Scholl leads the viewers into a world that outwardly recalls the serenity of the pastoral but is consistently shadowed by the weight of revelation. The pastoral, often idealised as harmonious respite, is reconfigured as a vulnerable realm always on the brink of exposure—where every gentle image of care or communion is shadowed by the creeping awareness that the traumatic truth will make an unannounced arrival. Through archaic and enthralling imagery such as goats and lambs, shepherds and flocks, skulls and flames, Scholl summons the gravity of Christian symbolism while tempering it with gestures of tenderness. His shepherds are not distant icons but caring presences, holding the vulnerability of human and non-human bodies with quiet intensity. These gestures of care, however, do not neutralise the undercurrent of danger; rather, they exist alongside the knowledge that revelation arrives stealthily, when the soul least expects it.

## Notes to editors

'Like a Thief in the Night' is Berlin-based artist **Dennis Scholl**'s first solo exhibition in Asia and with the gallery. Known for his enchanting visual language and storytelling, Scholl presents here 16 of his latest paintings and a collection of drawings that draw upon the pastoral as both a locus of sentimentality and a theatre of profound spiritual allegory—inviting the viewers into a world between comfort and foreboding, belonging and exile, nurture and disruption. The exhibition opens on 29 November 2025 (Sat) from 2 to 7 pm and is on view until 28 February 2026 (Sat).

For further information, please contact **Cusson Cheng**, *Curatorial Director*, at [cusson@podiumgallery.com](mailto:cusson@podiumgallery.com), or call +852 3165 1452.

## About Dennis Scholl

Through his lush and intricate oil paintings and drawings, **Dennis Scholl** (b. 1980, lives and works in Berlin) creates an enigmatic worldview where human and non-human beings oscillate between brutality and beauty, violence and tenderness. Referencing Christian pictorial traditions, religious rituals, and mythological motifs, the subject matters in his works metamorphose into ritual offerings that capture the psychological turmoils arising from the everchanging tensions between sacrifice, vulnerability, and sanctuary. His recent solo exhibitions include M+B Los Angeles (2024), Kunstverein Göttingen (2024), and Museum Modern Art, Hünfeld (2022). He also participated in group exhibitions at Kunstverein Meißen (2025), Museum Reinickendorf, Berlin (2024), Kunstverein Göttingen (2024), Kölischer Kunstverein, Cologne (2024), HAUNT, Berlin (2023), Kunstverein Gera (2022), among others. His works are collected by Burger Collection, Hong Kong; Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; Bundeskunstsammlung, Bonn; Olbricht Collection, Berlin, and Robert Runták Collection, Olomouc. Scholl graduated from the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg.

## About PODIUM

Founded in 2023, Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery PODIUM operates as a robust platform for underrepresented emerging and mid-career artists whose creative practices reflect idiosyncratic aesthetics and resonate with current social discourses. Through dynamic exhibition programmes, publications, and institutional collaborations, the gallery remains steadfast in fostering transnational dialogues and synergic and experimental growth among the international artistic community.

**Website:** [www.podiumgallery.com](http://www.podiumgallery.com)

**Instagram, Facebook, WeChat:** @podiumgallery