

LUKE EDWARD HALL

Dancing with Serpents

May 23 - June 16, 2026

Opening: Saturday 23 May 2026, 5 -7pm

The Breeder presents *Dancing with Serpents*, **Luke Edward Hall's** fourth solo exhibition at the gallery. Hall is a multidisciplinary artist and designer working across drawing, painting, ceramics, interiors, and fashion, blurring distinctions between fine and applied arts. His practice unfolds as a form of world-building, constructing a vivid and fluid visual language in which mythology, folklore, and everyday life converge. Across media, his work is unified by a poetic sensibility, at once intimate and expansive, where figures, landscapes, and symbols drift between the real and the imagined.

Drawing on a longstanding fascination with antiquity alongside Northern European folklore and the Arthurian cycle, the body of legends surrounding King Arthur and his court, Hall brings together disparate narrative traditions into a shared, timeless space. Mythical and legendary figures are not fixed but continually reinterpreted, appearing as emotionally resonant presences rather than distant archetypes. Through this lens, Hall softens inherited narratives, revealing moments of vulnerability, sensuality, and quiet introspection. His protagonists are often male figures drawn from myth, imbued with a lyrical ambiguity that challenges traditional depictions of heroism, allowing tenderness and desire to surface.

The works in this exhibition take cues from landscapes both remembered and imagined: coastal horizons, open fields, and shifting pastoral scenes. These environments function less as settings than as emotional terrains, sites of encounter and transformation. Color plays a central role; applied intuitively, it destabilizes naturalism and instead heightens atmosphere and sensation. Figures emerge and dissolve within these chromatic fields, their bodies porous and responsive to the world around them.

In *Dancing with Serpents*, Hall extends his exploration of storytelling through paintings that draw on folklore from West Penwith in Cornwall—piskies, giants, and mermaids—alongside recurring mythological figures such as Pan, Antinous, and Dionysus. Rather than illustrating specific tales, the works trace affinities between these traditions, allowing them to coexist and transform one another. Across the exhibition, Hall proposes a shared imaginative space where mythologies overlap and evolve.

This convergence unfolds through a series of encounters between figure and landscape. In *The Bather* and *Guardian*, the solitary body becomes a site of introspection, poised between exposure and withdrawal, while *Guardian II* extends this mood into a more luminous, suspended stillness. Elsewhere, relationships emerge more ambiguously: *The Magician* and *The Riders* suggest moments of guidance, companionship, or ritual, without

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resolving their narrative. In works such as *In the Woods* and *In the Woods II*, figures are absorbed into their surroundings, their identities diffused within branching, rhythmic environments.

A parallel strand of the exhibition turns toward transformation and enchantment. *Phantom Caer* and *Field Prayer (White Horse)* evoke acts of invocation or quiet communion with unseen forces, while *The Wanderer* and *Shadow Boy* introduce more elusive, solitary presences—figures defined as much by atmosphere as by form. Even in ostensibly quieter works such as *Foxglove*, *Wildflowers*, or *Red Stones*, the landscape itself carries a latent charge, suggesting that myth resides not only in figures but within the terrain itself.

Across these works, Hall constructs a world where mythology is not distant but deeply felt embedded in gestures, relationships, and atmospheres. His paintings do not narrate so much as they sustain a presence, allowing fragments of emotion, memory and place to surface and recombine. Through this approach, *Dancing with Serpents* proposes a re-enchanted vision of the world, grounded in fluid identities, sensuality, and an enduring sense of wonder.

Luke Edward Hall (b. 1989) is a British artist and designer whose work spans interior design, fashion, murals, and illustration across publishing and hospitality. He has collaborated with institutions, such as the Louvre, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Academy of Arts and international brands including Burberry, Lanvin, Christie's, Ginori 1735, Svenskt Tenn, Rubelli and Diptyque. In 2020, he completed his first major project in design and art direction with the opening of Hôtel Les Deux Gares in Paris. In 2022, he launched his own brand, Chateau Orlando, encompassing homeware and clothing. He has completed large scale design projects with Amaru at Hotel Kulm in St Moritz and Hotel Saint-George in Megève. He is the author of three books, published by teNeues, Vendome, and Penguin. From 2019 until 2025 Luke was a columnist for *FT Weekend*, answering reader's questions on interior design and living well. Hall has presented solo exhibitions with The Breeder, Athens, including *Figs and Honey and Sailing* (2021), *The Hunter Hunts in a Pink Mist* (2022) and *I Walk Over The Mountains and the Waves* in Patmos Island (2024); Frieze No.9 Cork Street, London (2023); Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York (2023); and Patricia Low Contemporary, Venice (2025). He participates in *Where the Day Starts*, 2nd Biennale of Contemporary Keramics in Rhodes, Greece (2026), curated by Anissa Touati, Stamatia Dimitrakopoulos and Loukia Thomopoulou.