

Wschód

Laurie Smith
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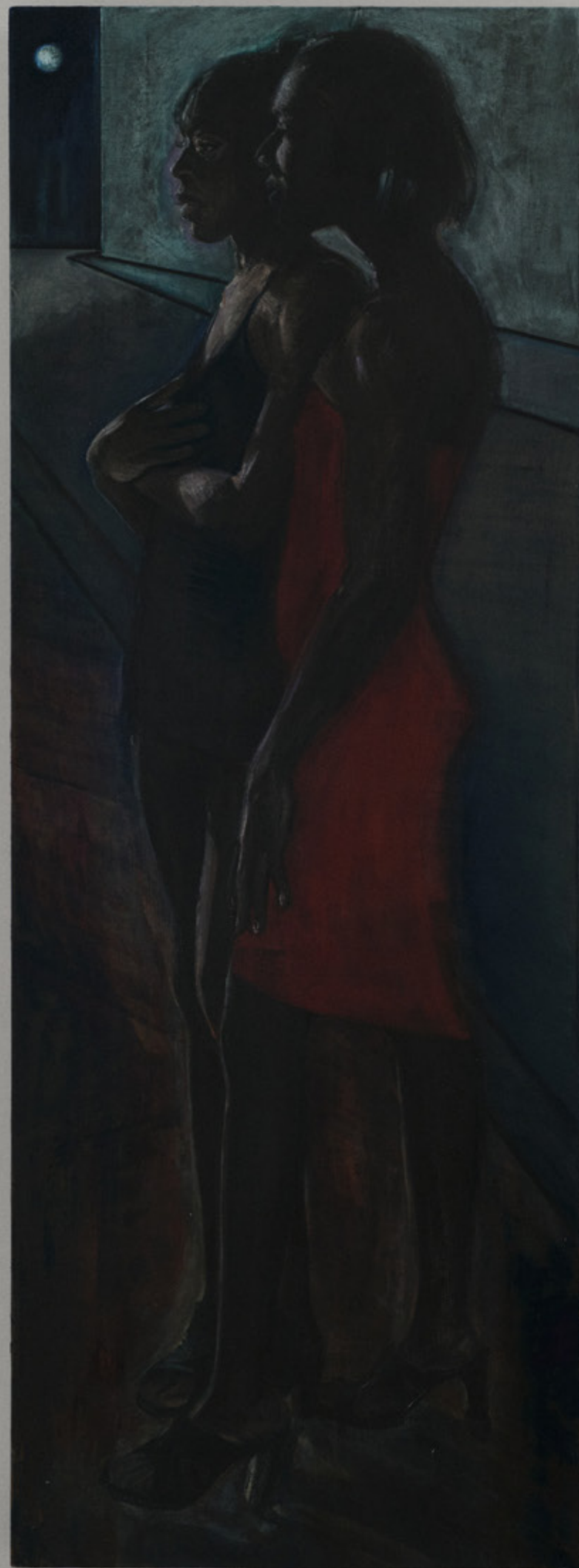
June 12, 2026 – August 15, 2026

Wschód Warsaw

The exhibition *Sinhome* by Laurie Smith at Galeria Wschód presents artist's latest paintings, which delve into the complexities of queer presence and subjectivity in the contemporary metropolis. The project takes the form of a site-specific painting installation, where individual works function as fragments of a single nocturnal narrative, constructing a layered intimacy of fleeting encounters. Smith continues his research into the visual and social strategies of constructing queer life within the social imagination. The works engage with the psychoanalytic concept of jouissance – a state of intensity in which pleasure and pain are inseparable, and the categories of trauma and celebration converge.

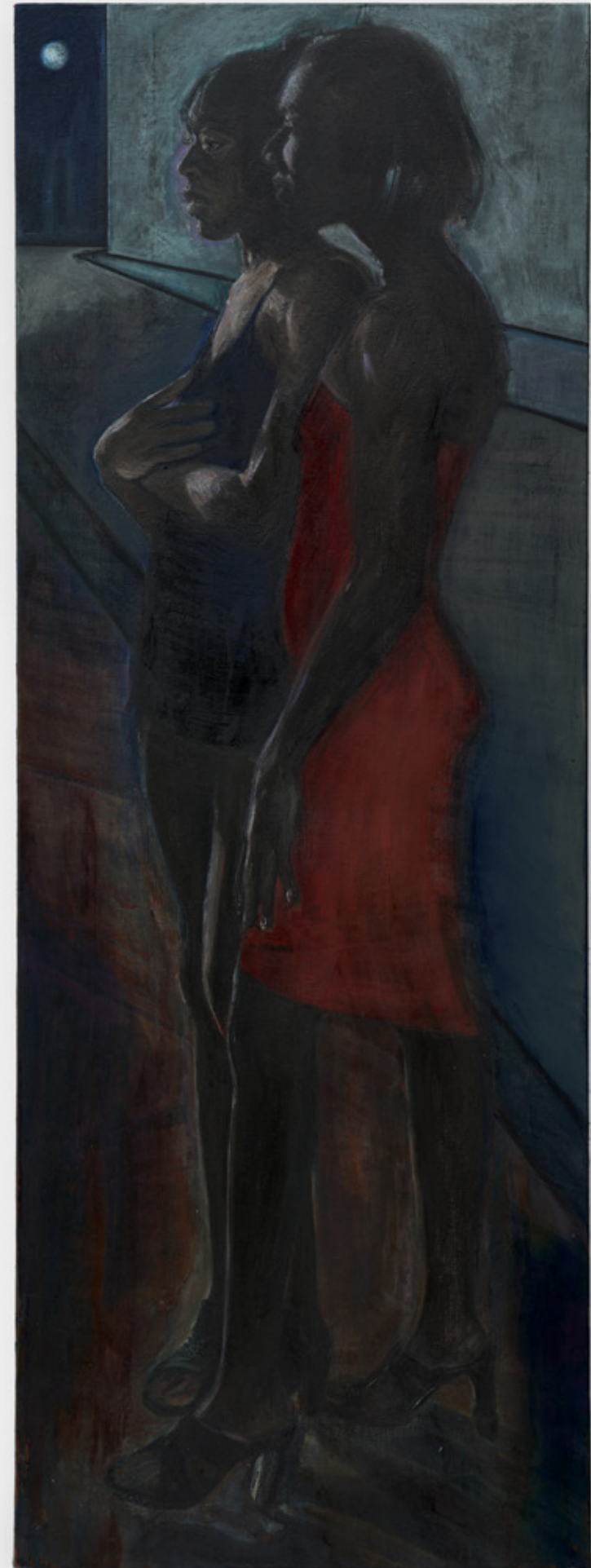
Smith draws from art history exploring a vast compositional strategies to construct scenes of cruising, performance, and nocturnal gatherings. On one hand, the works reference the history of twentieth-century painting – particularly the tensions present in Balthus' work or the spatial distortions and decorative flatness associated with Henri Matisse – while on the other hand, they are firmly rooted in the nighttime London of queer communities.

[...]





Fairy tales, 2026
oil on linen
150 x 55 cm





Fairy tales, 2026 (detail)

Fairy tales, 2026 (detail)



[...]

The figures operate at the intersection of the private and the public, suspended mid-gesture in moments where their significance remains unresolved. The compositions draw on histories of the regulation of queer life in public spaces, where laws governing the assembly of same-sex individuals shaped their visibility, comfort and basic freedom. The relationships between the figures is ambiguous and performative. Recurring motifs of a nightlife operate as cultural codes related to identity and desire, creating a space that offers a refuge.

Smith is interested in the everyday life and emotional atmosphere of queer spaces that are disappearing under the pressures of gentrification, surveillance, and social change. He treats them as social codes through which marginalized communities recognize one another. The exhibition repeatedly returns to the feeling of suspension between safe environment and control. Interiors reminiscent of basement bars with sticky floors and clandestine members' clubs, which become sanctuaries shaped by desire and vulnerability.



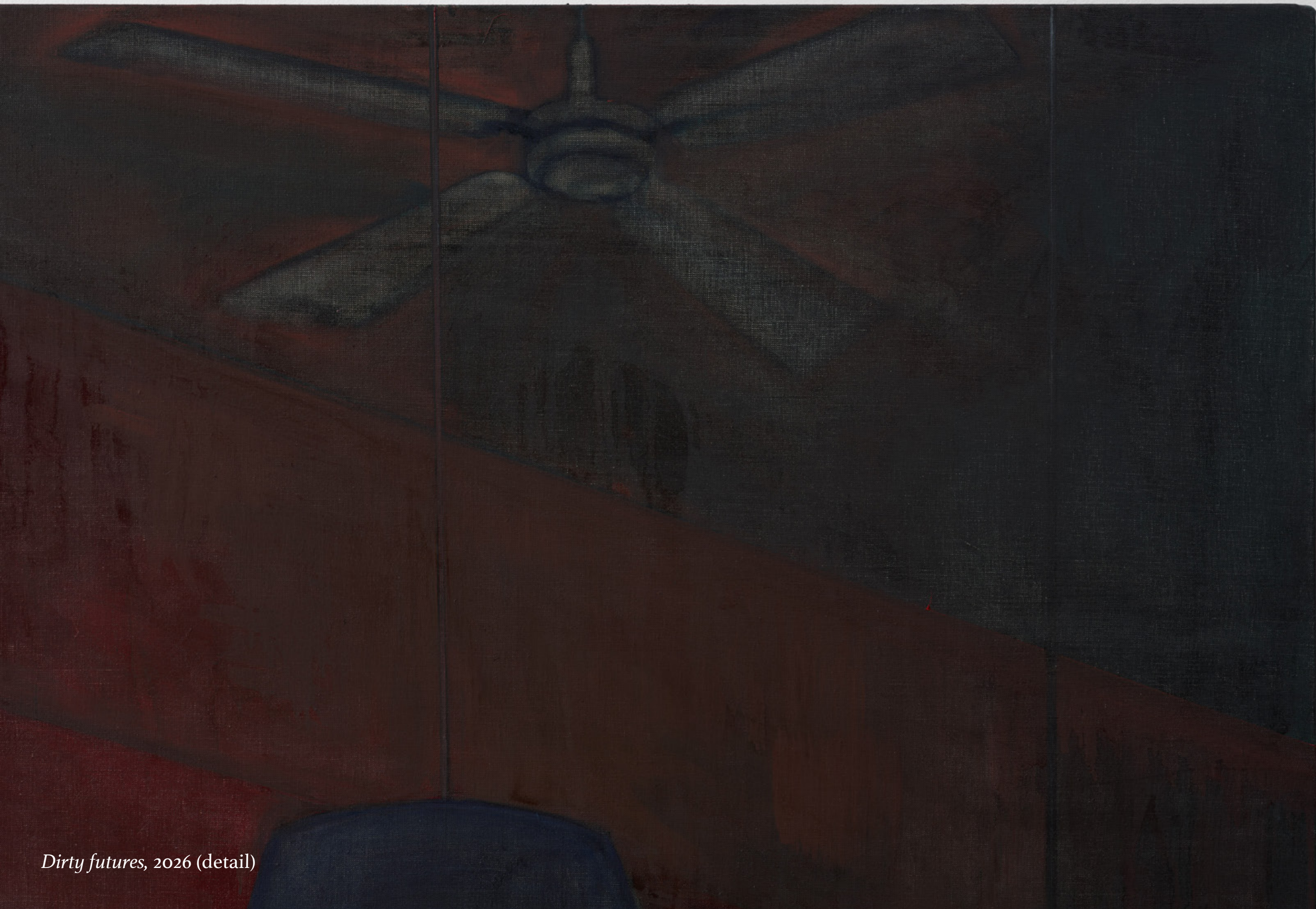




Dirty futures, 2026
oil on linen
150 x 200 cm

My body a map of the city, 2026 (detail)





Dirty futures, 2026 (detail)

Dirty futures, 2026 (detail)



Taking inspiration from historical portraiture, Laurie streamlines these seemingly traditional techniques through a queer lens, encapsulating his sitter in states of both resilience and vulnerability.

Laurie Smith
A Flower for a Heart, 2024
- Painters Painting Paintings





All these lost boys, 2026
oil on linen
150 x 110 cm





All these lost boys, 2026 (detail)

All these lost boys, 2026 (detail)



*He expresses his appreciation by painting the icons in his immediate vicinity,
repetitively painting them in transitory states of emotion.*

Laurie Smith
A Flower for a Heart, 2024
- Painters Painting Paintings







My body a map of the city, 2026
oil on linen
150 x 220 cm

My body a map of the city, 2026 (detail)





My body a map of the city, 2026 (detail)

My body a map of the city, 2026 (detail)



Wschód

Wschód is a contemporary art gallery founded in Warsaw. It runs experimental pop up spaces, residencies and curatorial projects globally.

The name translates to *sunrise* and *geographical east*. It refers to *new beginning*.

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