

KATE WERBLE

LOLA LEFRANÇOIS

Underneath the Roses

OCTOBER 17 – NOVEMBER 15, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Underneath the Roses is Lola Lefrançois's debut exhibition with Kate Werble Gallery and her first solo exhibition in New York City.

Lefrançois' work questions the utopic and dystopic qualities with the history of Western landscape painting and the decorative arts. She works in oil, making paintings that are primarily on unstretched fabric, draping from ceiling to floor. The 6-large scale paintings and 2 intimate works on cloth napkins that comprise her exhibition create an immersive experience while walking through the gallery. The fabrics she paints on are often tattered and frayed, a visual gesture to emphasize the passage of time. These tears and frays reveal that what is expected to be in ideal condition, is imperfect. Beauty becomes the façade of reality.

Rich, bodied swashes of color within the pastoral scenes are fragmented atop the fabric. Lefrançois' emphasis on the coexistence of opposition flows into hidden details like bloodied water and lush forests. Luminescent greens and red venous rivers trickle throughout and create a veil of beauty that hides true decay.

Lola Lefrançois is a French artist based in New York City (born 1997, Saint-Agrève, France). Inspired by her childhood in Auroville, India, she challenges the history of Western landscape painting and its dominant gaze on nature and animals. She received her BFA from École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon in 2019 and her MFA from the City College of New York, (SUNY) in 2023. Since then, she has actively participated in residency programs such as the Art Center Residency LMCC (ongoing), Anderson Ranch (2025), the Canopy Program (2025), ChaNorth (2024), Monson Arts (2024), the NARS Foundation Program (2024), and the Rockella Residency Program (2023). Lefrançois has held solo exhibitions at Courthouse Gallery, Lake George, NY (2025), and Compton-Goethals Gallery, The City College of New York, NY (2023). Her work has been exhibited in group shows at venues including NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, NY (2024) ; One-Eyed Studios at Rockella Space, NY (2024) ; Compton-Goethals Gallery, The City College of New York, NY (2023) and (2022) ; Festival ÉVAsions des Arts, Villy-en-Auxois, France (2020) ; and École Nationale de Musique, Danse et Art Dramatique, Lyon, France (2019).