

# KATE WERBLE

**SEAN NASH**

***Acid Base***

**JULY 10 – AUGUST 15, 2025**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*Acid Base* is Sean Nash's first solo exhibition at Kate Werble Gallery and his debut solo show in New York City.

The new paintings in *Acid Base* depict a group of imagined flora, fauna and marine life; an installation of imaginary botanicals and submarine plants running in a line around the gallery. These 11 paintings, 2 works on paper, and single small sculpture are drawn from Nash's many years experimenting with growth and decay, specifically his work with fermentation and the microbial. His improvised biological abstractions are made through painterly spills, calligraphic strokes, and applications of paint using squeegees, stencils, and hand-modified tools.

Nash's works in *Acid Base* are alive with the artist's imagining of trans\*ecologies, illustrated through fluid and changing forms and textures in the work. The paintings in *Acid Base* employ an acrylic color palette mixed to match the colors in a litmus test (pH) spectrum. Litmus tests, conducted on paper made with extracted lichen dyes, measure the pH of a liquid from acid to base. This range of off-white, pink, green, and red tones in his paintings are also found within more historical botanical drawings and these colors help fuse the literal and metaphorical earth environs. Using this naturally derived palette, Nash gives us a rubric for engaging with the invisible, the lesser-seen and the microscopic.

Parallel to the scientific meaning of litmus test in this work, Nash considered the figurative implications of the term. These paintings were created as both a reflection and a salve against an increasingly acidic environment, in both ecological and political terms, and in particular for trans\* people. The paintings depict creation and abundance through their diverse biomorphic relationships, and they exist outside of a political litmus test, using their language of biomorphic abstraction. Movement and camouflage in paint provide habitat for fugitive, subterranean, perceptive, and relational lifeforms, ones synonymous with queer and trans being.

*Sean Nash, (born Memphis, TN, 1980), received his MFA in painting and printmaking from Yale University and a BFA from UT Knoxville. His work peers into dynamic and changing ecosystems, often referencing his experiences with fermentation, cooking, gardening, and the natural world. He has held solo shows at the Volland Foundation in Alma, KS, The Kniznick Gallery in Waltham, MA, Plug Projects in Kansas City, MO, and Black Ball Projects in Brooklyn, NY. Most recently, his work was shown at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, KS, in conjunction with the Charlotte Street Fellows Award he received in 2023. Nash's individual and collaborative writing on art, fermentation, and queer and trans\* identity has been published in multiple journals and his essay on "transfermentation," an ongoing project with trans fermenters, will be published in the forthcoming trans ecologies edition of Transgender Studies Quarterly. He currently has a solo exhibition on view at TOPS Gallery in Memphis, TN. Nash lives and works in Kansas City, KS.*