

Mariann Metsis

Margot Samel is pleased to announce a solo presentation by Mariann Metsis (b. 1991, Tallinn, Estonia) at Liste. Metsis' work moves between perception, memory and performance, often through a process of wiping, reworking and returning to an image until it reaches a state that feels both familiar and unstable. Her paintings hold a sense of searching, as if the image is continually forming itself while also slipping away.

Arranged in a horizontal sequence at the same height across the booth, the works read as a single line running through the booth, even as each painting interrupts or bends the flow. Metsis approaches the structure as a kind of fragmented Greek theater: episodic, and unresolved. The line is cut into scenes that feel connected but never settle into a complete narrative. Viewers move from one moment to the next as if following a script broken into fragments.

Each painting offers a partial view rather than a conclusion. Some images stretch across long, narrow formats that slow the viewer's pace. Others appear in more compact squares, like a sudden shift of attention. Faces slip into shadow, bodies turn at the edge of the frame, and landscapes behave more like emotional atmospheres than places. The images feel as though they are trying to stay intact while also letting themselves drift apart.

The way Metsis works leaves traces of earlier decisions in the surface. Marks rise through later layers, and gestures that were once certain become softened or obscured. The viewer senses the restlessness within the making of the image, and the tension between what is revealed and what is withheld. At Liste, this takes on a quieter, more spacious form. The paintings feel suspended between memory and anticipation, as if something has just passed through the image or is about to arrive.

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Mariann Metsis (b. 1991, Tallinn, Estonia) lives and works in London. She studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, London; The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna; and received a BA in Fine Arts from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London. Solo and duo exhibitions include: Mariann Metsis and Liina Siib, Galerina, London, UK (2026); *Trauerspiele*, Margot Samel, New York (2025); *Bals des victimes*, Deborah Schamoni, Munich, Germany (2024); *Life under*, Galerina, London, UK (2023); *maalid2020*, Hoib Gallery, Tallinn, Estonia (2020). Selected group exhibitions include: *The Apartment*, Galerina, London, UK (2025); *Shifting Sand*, Galerija Asni, Riga, Latvia (2024); *bending spines*, curated by Antoine Simeao Schalk, Berlin, Germany (2023); *High Stakes*, Lisa Boudet, Paris, France (2023); *just as when the night*, Light Eye Mind, London, UK (2019); *Paintings for the Temple of Love*, Cob Gallery, London, UK (2019); and *Cities Methodologies*, Slade Research Centre, London, UK (2014).

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