

Freya Douglas-Morris
Mid-March Melody
March 13 – April 20, 2024
London



Freya Douglas-Morris, *Blossom*, 2024 (detail)

Lehmann Maupin is pleased to announce *Mid-March Melody*, an exhibition of new work by British artist Freya Douglas-Morris. Based in London, Douglas-Morris is known for her vividly colored landscapes that depict rich flora, glowing skies, and serene waters and shore lines. Using a bright, fauvist color palette, the artist renders imagined scenes inspired from life and her long, meditative walks through nature. Her striking application of oil on canvas—ranging from bold swaths of color, to highly detailed foliage painting, to sheer washes that create a watercolor effect—contributes to the surreal, ethereal quality of her scenes. *Mid-March Melody* marks Douglas-Morris' first exhibition with Lehman Maupin and includes eight new paintings, alongside six works on copper panel.

For *Mid-March Melody*, Douglas-Morris created a body of work inspired by the change in season from late winter to early spring. Each piece in the exhibition was made simultaneously in the artist's studio, creating intrinsic relationships between canvases and building an imagined environment that feels both cohesive and immersive. While the paintings in *Mid-March Melody* depict natural scenes that seem as though they could be found in Giverny, a boreal forest, or the Scandinavian mountains, none of these works reference a specific site. Rather, each painting is a composite image—a poetic imagining of place inspired by locations the artist has seen or visited, particular feelings, or even qualities of light. By intentionally crafting imaginary spaces, Douglas-Morris allows viewers to locate their own associations, experiences, and impressions within her work.

In *Blossom* the largest painting in the exhibition, Douglas-Morris uses bright, intense color, filling the ground of her canvas with rich reds, oranges, and pinks. The gently rolling hills at the base of the composition suggest an almost quilt-like construction, with their warm colors juxtaposed in jewel-toned planes struck through with streaks of blue or green. Douglas-Morris' bold use of color allows her attentive treatment of edges to come into focus—in some instances the artist's line holds, in others it bleeds and blurs. The top half of the canvas is filled with a luminous tree canopy, rendered in complementary shades of sea blue and teal. On each bough, Douglas-Morris has painted hundreds of delicate white blossoms, reveling in the regenerative promise of spring.

In *Craspedia* Douglas-Morris depicts a mountain seen from a distance across a still lake. Filled with cool pink and purple hues, the serene water is painted with a sheer wash of color that reflects the smaller mountains along the shoreline. Here, the artist uses a thin layer of oil paint to approximate the effect of watercolor, echoing the water-based technique to render imagery of water with remarkable technical skill. As in other work, *Craspedia* is not a scene from a specific place—instead, Douglas-Morris explores the image of a mountain as an intuitive idea. Here and throughout the exhibition, the artist presents her canvases as a window into another realm. Rather than recreating physical landscapes, Douglas-Morris depicts internal terrain, open to her viewer's own journeys, experiences, relationships, and memories. In visualizing such “felt places,” the artist's work occupies a certain universal space, reminding us of our own connection to the natural world and the inner worlds we carry within—the ones we take with us wherever we go.



Freya Douglas-Morris, *Craspedia*, 2024 (detail)



Freya Douglas-Morris (b. 1980, London, United Kingdom) received a BA in fine arts from Brighton University, Brighton, UK and an MA in painting from the Royal College of Art, London, UK. Her work has been featured at galleries and museums including Alexander Berggruen, NY; Pilar Corrias, London, UK; Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh, UK; HDM Gallery, Shenzhen, CN; The Manchester Contemporary, Manchester UK; Lychee One Gallery, London, UK; Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall, UK; CS Hospiz Rennweg, Vienna, AT; Yellow

Gallery & Transition Gallery, Varese, IT; Dallas Contemporary Museum, Dallas, TX; and Liverpool Biennial, UK. Douglas-Morris's work is included in the collection of the Dallas Museum of Art, TX. She was featured in The Anomie Review of Contemporary British Painting 2 in 2021 and 100 Painters of Tomorrow in 2014. The artist lives and works in London, UK.

Artist portrait by Tamsin Topolski.

**LEHMANN MAUPIN**

Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin co-founded Lehmann Maupin in 1996 in New York. Since inception, Lehmann Maupin has served as a leading contemporary art gallery with locations in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. For over 25 years, Lehmann Maupin has been instrumental in introducing international artists in new geographies and building long-lasting curatorial relationships. Known for championing diverse voices, the gallery's program proudly features artists whose work challenges notions of identity and shapes international culture. Today, the gallery has permanent locations in New York, Seoul, and London, as well as team members based in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, and Palm Beach. In recent years, with growing opportunities in new markets, the gallery has opened seasonal spaces in Aspen, Palm Beach, Taipei, and Beijing.

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