

HAUSER & WIRTH

Press Release

HAUSER & WIRTH INVITE(S)

LEONARDO DEVITO

With a text by Violette d'Urso

In collaboration with Ciaccia Levi

Hauser & Wirth Paris

27 November – 20 December 2025

A program for hosting fellow artists, galleries and writers in our Paris space, offering wider visibility of their work and ideas and engaging with the city's vibrant creative community



'My favourite pastime since discovering Leonardo Devito's work has been spotting monsters in his art. I was thrilled to find them all there at the Hauser & Wirth exhibition. Devito invites us into spaces populated by characters much like ourselves, alongside imaginary cities and monsters. He weaves together references from the Middle Ages with more modern ones, like these Gotham City-esque urban landscapes. The result is a nebulous, disquieting yet youthful, light-hearted and playful universe.

The exhibition is entitled *Scary Monsters*. As I look at his night skies, I hear the punky, catchy chords of David Bowie's album of the same name. All these combinations create contrasts and dualities, which I believe offer the most beautiful way to explore anxiety. Devito manages to paint this childhood fear of monsters, both frightening and yet so like us. Conjured by our minds, they accompany us constantly in varying forms. Paradoxically, this world feels reassuring: in Devito's

HAUSER & WIRTH

work, the frightening is also poetic. We move fearlessly towards these unknown worlds and tame our monsters. An artist (whether painter or musician) remembers the terrifying creatures of their childhood. In doing so, they speak to us of something we know, though we might pretend we've forgotten.'

— Violette d'Urso

About Hauser & Wirth Invite(s)

This initiative reflects Hauser & Wirth's longstanding commitment to building a sense of connection in the places where it works, collaborating with artists (or estates) who may benefit from an additional platform, galleries of different scale and writers addressing new audiences, all in support of a sustainable art ecosystem. By hosting fellow artists, galleries and writers in our Paris space, we offer wider visibility of their work and ideas to engage with the city's vibrant creative community. Organized with Olivier Renaud-Clement, Hauser & Wirth Invite(s) is hosted on the second floor of our Paris location and complements our ongoing series of exhibitions by gallery artists on the ground and first floors. Hauser & Wirth Invite(s) will launch in our Zurich space from 9 May 2025.



About Leonardo Devito

Leonardo Devito (born 1997, Florence) lives and works in Turin. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Vienna and received his MFA Fine Arts at the Accademia Albertina in Turin. His recent solo exhibitions feature *Candide*, with Domenico Gnoli, Drawing Week Milan, Ciaccia Levi, Milan, 2024; *Teatrino*, Ciaccia Levi, Paris, 2024 and a solo presentation at LISTE Basel with Ciaccia Levi gallery in June 2025. Among the group exhibitions: *Last Night I Dreamt of Manderley*, Alison Jacques, London, 2025 and *X Collection 202: Portrait of a Man*, X Museum, Beijing, 2024.

HAUSER & WIRTH

About Ciaccia Levi

Ciaccia Levi, Paris-Milan was founded in 2013 by Nerina Ciaccia and Antoine Levi in the Parisian Belleville area. In 2020 the gallery relocated to a new space in the Marais - Arts & Métiers district, and in 2022 they opened a second space in Milan. Since its inception, the gallery has focused on presenting the work of international emergent artists, including Amber Andrews, Alina Chaiderov, Srijon Chowdhury, Romane de Watteville, Leonardo Devito, Garance Früh, Francesco Gennari, Daniel Jacoby, Piotr Makowski, Chalisée Naamani, Olve Sande, Sean Townley, Zoe Williams, and the Italian historical artists Lisetta Carmi and Nene Martelli.

Ciaccia Levi, Paris-Milan is also the co-founder of the art fair Paris Internationale.

About Violette d'Urso

Violette d'Urso is a French-Italian writer born in Paris in 1999, currently based in New York. Her debut novel, *Même le bruit de la nuit a changé*, was published by Flammarion in March 2023 and translated into Italian by Mondadori the following year. The novel follows a young narrator investigating the life of her father, who disappeared when she was a child. Armed with an old address book, she retraces his steps, beginning in Naples, his hometown. Through fragments of stories she gathers, objects she collects, and what she learns about the cities she passes through, she pieces together a portrait of a man she never knew.

Violette d'Urso studied medieval history at the CPES at Université PSL and is currently pursuing her studies at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University.

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Opening hours

Tuesday – Saturday
10am – 6pm

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Caption and courtesy

All images:
Leonardo Devito in the studio, 2025
Courtesy the artist